



# NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



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# NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

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As the new decade begins the Northwest Florida Water Management District looks forward to the needs of the District's communities, environment, businesses and residents. Plans and projects to expand area water supplies, protect sensitive environmental areas and permit sustainable construction will continue throughout the coming year.

Alternative water supply development will continue in our coastal communities. Plans are being developed for an inland aquifer wellfield to serve Bay County and provide a back-up supply for Deer Point Lake Reservoir. This will help drought proof the area and provide an alternative in case of hurricane surge or other disasters. The District is also working with local governments and utilities to interconnect local water supplies with a series of pipelines from Santa Rosa County to Port St. Joe. This will further enhance alternative water supply projects of the past decade. The result will be a diverse base of water sources that, when interconnected, will further the goal of drought proofing the coastal area by allowing short-term transfer between utilities.

The purchase and restoration of sensitive environmental areas will continue to be important to protect our water resources. Springs restoration at the Econfina Springs Complex (Bay County) will begin in 2010. The project aims to decrease erosion around the springs and the banks of Econfina Creek. Plans for Pitt Spring include new retaining walls of natural limestone, entry ways, boardwalks and new launches for canoes and tubes. Work is expected to begin in spring and continue for 12 to 18 months.

The District will be restoring approximately 1,500 acres of wiregrass habitat throughout its 16 county area and cooperating with local governments along the Choctawhatchee River to improve boat ramps and picnic areas. Public workshops will also be conducted for input on public access and recreational opportunities on a 1,375-acre tract on the Chipola River in Calhoun County.

Regulatory programs to protect ground and surface waters are being implemented in a proactive manner. Development of Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) Phase II, Management and Storage of Surface Waters continues in 2010. This rule seeks to protect the quality of life, water and natural resources by requiring permits for any activity that generates stormwater runoff and impacts waters of the state. The rule will add the environmental criteria to the ERP Phase I rules, covering connected and isolated wetlands and other surface waters. The rule will improve the management and storage of surface waters with minimal impact on property and will consider the rural nature of the District. Permits will usually be required for the construction,

alteration, operation, maintenance, abandonment and removal of systems so that the beneficial functions of these communities are conserved.

Work will continue on detailed elevation mapping in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Geographical Survey and other entities. Data obtained will improve coastal flood hazard mapping and provide accurate elevation information for future water resource projects. The final data set should be complete in 2010.

Surface and groundwater monitoring programs are ongoing in cooperation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) throughout the District's sixteen counties. Data obtained is a significant tool for assessing the quality of our water resources. Quarterly monitoring of first magnitude springs will also continue in cooperation with the DEP's Springs Initiative Program.

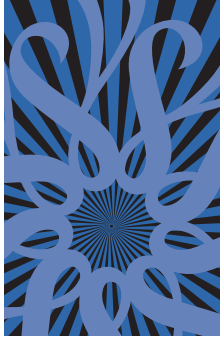
Throughout the upcoming year the District will continue to serve the residents of northwest Florida by identifying future water supply sources, undertaking restoration activities in our environmentally significant watersheds and protecting our valuable water resources.



George Roberts  
Chair, Governing Board



Douglas E. Barr  
Executive Director



# GOVERNING BOARD



**George Roberts**  
*Chair*  
Panama City  
Represents Basin III  
Appointed: March 3, 2006  
Term Expires: March 1, 2010



**Philip McMillan**  
*Vice Chair*  
Blountstown  
Represents Basin IV  
Appointed: March 3, 2006  
Reappointed: April 27, 2007  
Term Expires: March 1, 2011



**Steve Ghazvini**  
*Secretary/Treasurer*  
Tallahassee  
Serves at Large  
Appointed: April 27, 2007  
Term Expires: March 1, 2011



**Douglas E. Barr**  
*Executive Director*  
Northwest Florida  
Water Management District  
Appointed: February 1992

| 2010 GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| January 28                    | August 26     |
| February 25                   | September 14* |
| March 25                      | September 23  |
| April 22                      | October 28    |
| May 27                        | November 30   |
| June 24                       | December 1    |
| July 22                       |               |



*Mr. J. Luis Rodriguez, Monticello, passed away on April 22, 2009. He was appointed to the Governing Board by Governor Charlie Crist on April 1, 2008 for a four year term. Mr. Rodriguez was a farmer, most recently raising Angus cattle in Jefferson County. He was also a trade advisor to Florida Farmers Inc. and voluntarily served on many association boards. Mr. Rodriguez's selfless efforts to support sustainable agriculture and land use practices will be missed.*

Governing Board meetings will be held at the District's headquarters office on U.S. Highway 90, except for those with an asterisk (\*). The May meeting and September 14 public hearing on the proposed 2010-2011 budget will be held at the District's Crestview Field Office. The September 23 meeting will be followed by a public hearing on the proposed budget. This schedule of meetings is tentative and subject to change.



**Peter Antonacci**  
Tallahassee  
Represents Basin V  
Appointed: March 31, 2006  
Reappointed: April 1, 2008  
Term Expires: March 1, 2011



**Stephanie Bloyd**  
Panama City Beach  
Serves at Large  
Appointed: March 2, 2001  
Reappointed: March 2, 2002  
Reappointed: March 3, 2006  
Term Expires: March 1, 2010



**Joyce Estes**  
Apalachicola  
Serves at Large  
Appointed: September 10, 2009  
Term Expires: March 1, 2013



**Tim Norris**  
Santa Rosa Beach  
Represents Basin II  
Appointed: April 27, 2007  
Term Expires: March 1, 2011



**Jerry Pate**  
Pensacola  
Represents Basin I  
Appointed: November 14, 2006  
Appointed: May 5, 2007  
Reappointed: September 10, 2009  
Term Expires: March 1, 2013



**Ralph Rish**  
Port St. Joe  
Serves at Large  
Appointed: September 17, 2009  
Term Expires: March 1, 2013

- Basin I:** Perdido and Escambia rivers
- Basin II:** Blackwater and Yellow rivers
- Basin III:** Choctawhatchee River and St. Andrew Bay Coast
- Basin IV:** Apalachicola and Chipola rivers
- Basin V:** Ochlockonee, Wakulla and St. Marks rivers

# DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA

Ensuring sustainable water supplies has been a focus of the District since its inception. While the panhandle's traditional water supply sources have met our water needs, advanced planning has been needed to ensure future supplies are sufficient to meet the region's growing demands while also protecting natural systems. As population and water

withdrawals increased, for example, alternatives to coastal well withdrawals were needed for some communities.

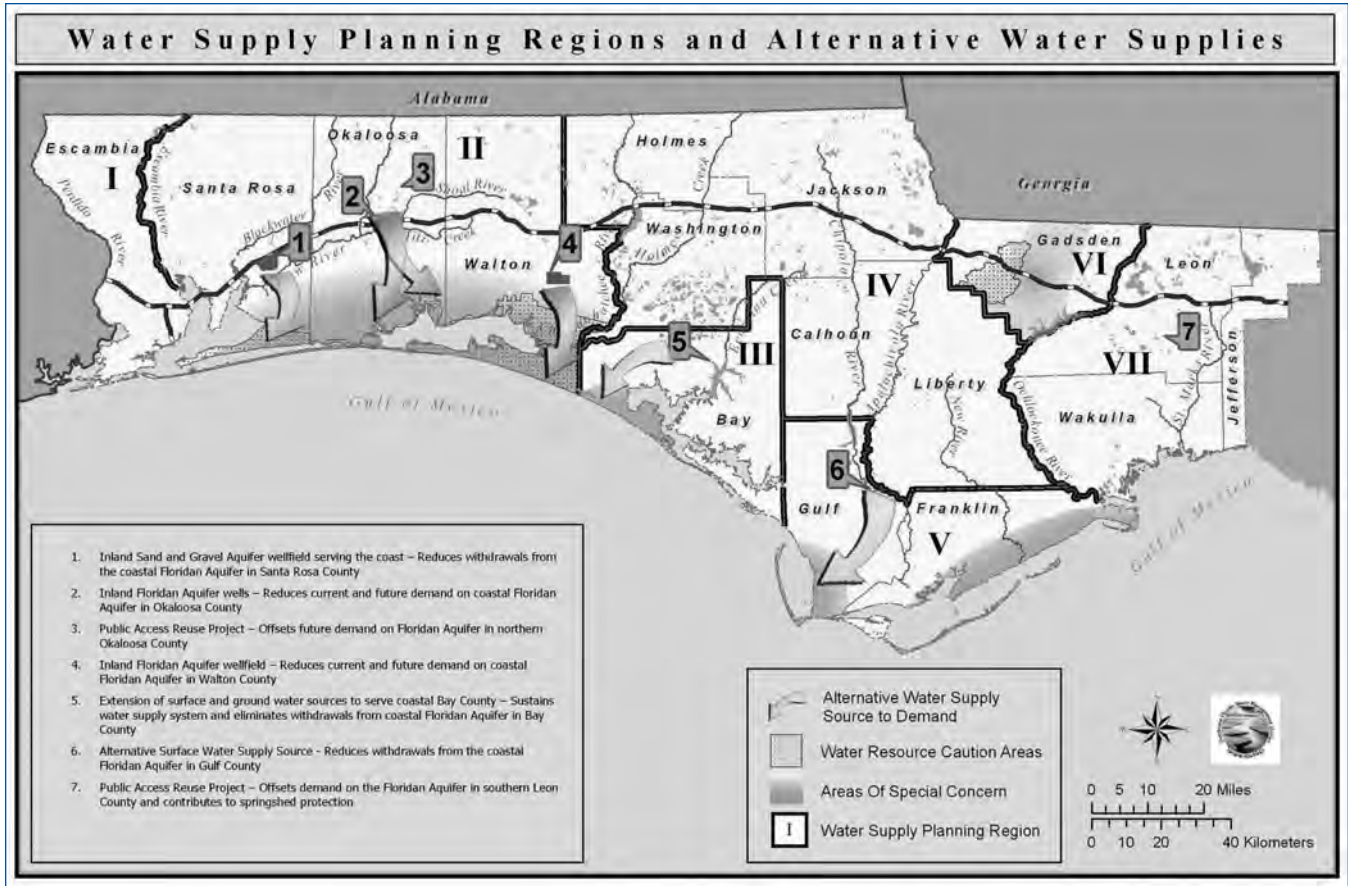
The District's emphasis is on regions where additional water supply needs are imminent. Initial efforts focused on coastal Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties, leading to construction of inland wellfields and transmission pipelines in each of these counties to deliver water to coastal communities. More recently, a surface water supply source has been developed to serve the City of Port St. Joe and the surrounding area. Work is also in progress to construct an inland wellfield to provide an additional water supply for Bay County and preliminary planning is underway to assist Okaloosa County in developing a new surface water supply source. Further efforts are ongoing to assist financially disadvantaged communities in Gadsden County affected by naturally constrained water resources.

The District's primary objectives are to facilitate construction of needed alternative water supply facilities that meet current and future water needs while sustaining water-dependent natural systems. While utilities are primarily responsible for constructing facilities to serve their customers, the District has an essential role in establishing the underlying vision and strategy for alternative water supply development, as well as a technical role in determining the siting and spacing of wells. The District also assists the utilities and local governments in funding construction projects.

There are several other regional challenges facing the District. Escambia and Santa Rosa counties have plentiful ground water supplies in the productive



*Well drillers in action*



Sand and Gravel Aquifer. However, because the aquifer is recharged so readily through the sand, its water quality needs to be protected from surface pollution. Similarly, in much of Jackson, Leon, and Wakulla counties, the Floridan Aquifer is breached by karst geology, which makes the water sources vulnerable to pollution from wastewater and stormwater runoff.

### Alternative Water Supply Development Projects

The District's underlying strategy has been to develop inland sources of ground and surface waters to provide drinking water for growing coastal communities, thus alleviating pressure on limited coastal ground water supplies. To date, four new alternative water supply sources have been developed and are currently in operation. A fifth new source, in Bay County, will begin construction in

2010 and a sixth alternative source is entering the planning stage. The District has also assisted in developing several water reuse projects throughout the area.

Since the 1980s, the District has worked with utilities in Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties to identify alternative water supplies that could be developed to complement resource regulation in meeting growing demands while sustaining water resources. The primary vision was to deliver water through transmission lines from the inland Sand and Gravel Aquifer in Santa Rosa County and the inland Floridan Aquifer in Okaloosa and Walton counties to the coastal areas where demand was greatest.

In Santa Rosa County, the Sand and Gravel Aquifer has been developed north of Eglin Air Force Base between the Blackwater and Yellow rivers. Over six



million gallons per day (MGD) are currently being delivered by the Fairpoint Regional Utility System to coastal utilities in the southern portion of the county.

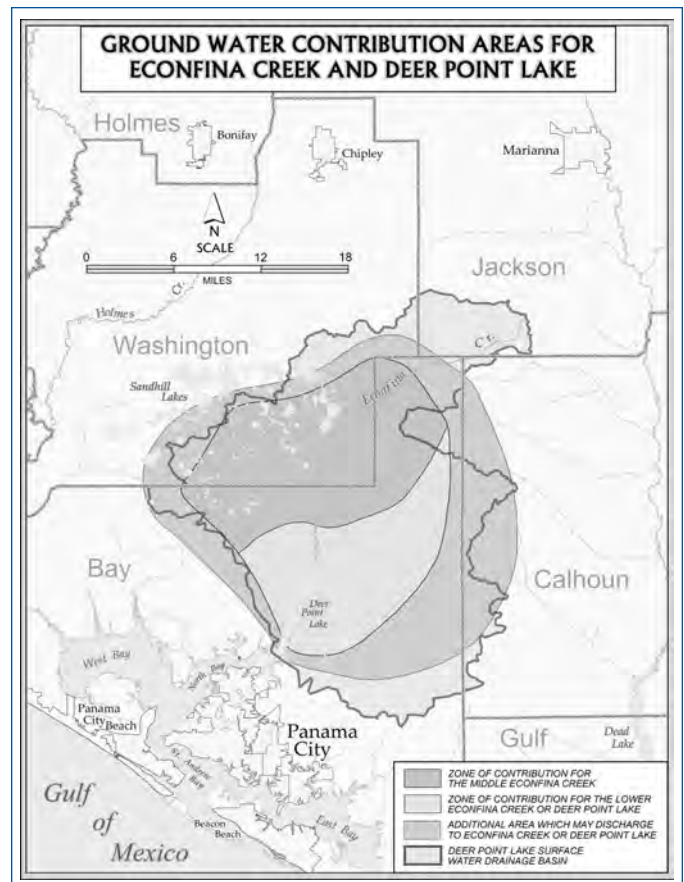
In Okaloosa County, a similar wellfield and pipeline have been developed to provide inland Floridan Aquifer water to coastal communities. Additionally, the county is working with the District to develop a sustainable surface water source to help meet future water demands while preserving ground water resources as well as riverine ecosystems.

In Walton County, an inland wellfield and water transmission pipeline have been constructed east of Eglin AFB through the cooperative efforts of several utilities with funding assistance from the District. Water from this wellfield is presently serving communities south of Choctawhatchee Bay. The wellfield capacity has been expanded to ensure that the production keeps pace with future population growth.

In Bay and Washington counties, a singular accomplishment of the NFWMD is the purchase of over 42,000 acres in the Econfina Recharge Area. District lands include a majority of the stream frontage along Econfina Creek and the recharge area for springs that discharge to the creek. Econfina Creek is the major tributary to Deer Point Lake Reservoir, Bay County's primary water source. District ownership and stewardship of these lands ensures the long-term productivity and quality of Bay County's water supply while also preserving an ecologically unique and sensitive area for public access and enjoyment.



*Deer Point Reservoir, Bay County's drinking water source*



The District's current priority in Region III is to help Bay County develop an inland Floridan Aquifer wellfield in the northwestern portion of the county. As outlined in the Region III Regional Water Supply Plan, the District and the county are working to



 *Ground Storage Tanks for Walton County Alternative Water Supplies*

develop an inland ground water supply to serve as back-up for the surface water source and provide additional capacity for growth. Development of this source will also help reduce the vulnerability of the county to the effects of extreme drought and major hurricanes. Construction is expected to begin in 2010.

In the eastern panhandle, the District's major alternative water supply accomplishment has been to provide guidance and funding to help the City of Port St. Joe purchase the Gulf County Fresh Water Supply canal and construct its new surface water treatment facility. This facility, which went online in April 2009, will provide up to six million gallons of potable water per day from the canal.

## Project Funding

Recognizing the importance of developing new water supplies and infrastructure, the Florida Legislature enacted the Water Protection and Sustainability Program and associated trust fund in 2005. This provided significant cost share funding and encouraged cooperation between local governments, utilities, and water management districts. The Legislature also required local government plans to address alternative water supply needs identified in the regional water supply plans.

In 2006, the District began funding a series of Alternative Water Supply Development and Water Resource Development projects through the Water

| Water Supply Projects                         | Local Partner                              | District Grant         | Local and other match | Anticipated capacity (MGD) | Status     |
|---|--|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Santa Rosa Inland Wellfield and pipeline      | Fairpoint Regional Utilities               | \$3,178,700            | \$4,000,000           | 18                         | Complete   |
| Walton County Inland Wellfield and Pipeline   | Regional Utilities; South Walton Utilities | \$8,000,000            | \$10,991,891          | 9                          | Complete   |
| Gulf County Canal and Surface Water Treatment | City of Port St. Joe                       | \$4,350,000            | \$13,086,700          | 6                          | Complete   |
| Bay County Inland Wellfield                   | Bay County                                 | \$7,500,000            | \$9,530,000           | 30                         | Permitting |
| Eastpoint Wells and Analysis                  | Eastpoint Water and Sewer District         | \$590,870              |                       | TBD                        | Permitting |
| Okaloosa County Surface Water Source          | Okaloosa County                            | To Be Determined (TBD) | TBD                   | 25                         | Planning   |

| Water Reuse Projects                                   | Local Partner       | District Grant | Local and other match | Anticipated capacity (MGD) | Status       |
|--|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Tram Road Public Access Reuse Facility                 | Tallahassee         | \$1,350,000    | \$5,250,000           | 1.2                        | Complete     |
| City of Chipley Reuse Project                          | Chipley             | \$500,000      | \$4,500,000           | 0.83                       | Complete     |
| Bob Sikes Reuse Project                                | Okaloosa County     | \$2,000,000    | \$4,000,000           | 1.0                        | Construction |
| Advanced Wastewater Treatment & Water Reuse Facilities | City of Tallahassee | \$500,000      | \$5,800,000           | 4.5                        | Complete     |
| Wakulla County Reuse Project                           | Wakulla County      | \$500,000      | \$750,000             | 0.35                       | Construction |

Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund and other District funds. A number of these projects bring to fruition efforts of the District and local utilities to identify and develop alternative water supplies through dedicated water resource development efforts.

Substantial water supply development assistance has also been provided from sources other than the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund. These include a \$3.1 million federal grant obtained by the District to develop the Fairpoint Regional Utility System inland Sand and Gravel

Aquifer wellfield and a District grant of \$350,000 to help the city of Port St. Joe purchase the Gulf County Fresh Water Canal. Additionally, the District provided \$1.5 million in Legislative and District grant funding to Regional Utilities to construct the infrastructure needed for the Walton County inland wellfield.

### Current and Future Initiatives

The District will work with local utilities to explore and develop options for interconnecting several water supply systems from Santa Rosa to Gulf



*City of Port St. Joe water treatment plant*

counties. Significant investments in alternative coastal water supplies have resulted in a diverse base of water supply sources. Interconnection of water supply systems will further enhance resilience of the coastal water systems by enabling transfers between utilities, if necessary, due to droughts or other emergencies. This initiative provides another example of the forward-looking approach of the District to identifying and addressing current and future water supply challenges.

Concurrently, District staff is developing a Districtwide reuse plan that will identify additional needs and opportunities for the reuse of reclaimed water. Water reuse is considered an additional water

supply source. Reuse projects enhance water use efficiency, and can also help protect springs and surface waters by reducing wastewater discharges and enhancing treatment levels.

## ASSESSMENT OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S WATER SUPPLY

*Although northwest Florida has abundant ground and surface waters, existing or anticipated water supply problems in specific areas need to be addressed through resource regulation and developing alternative or new sources. For example, in coastal Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties, ground water withdrawals since the 1940s have caused a significant decline in the potentiometric surface (well level) of the Floridan Aquifer. This, in turn, has elevated the threat of salt water intrusion into the aquifer, which would diminish its use as a water supply source. As a result, the District established enhanced regulatory measures to protect the affected resources and has worked with utilities to identify and develop alternative supplies.*

*The District completed its most recent assessment of water supplies in 2009. The District-wide update includes demand projections and a resource assessment through 2030. Total water use across northwest Florida is projected to increase by 43 percent during the 2005-2030 planning horizon to approximately 496 million gallons per day (MGD) by 2030. The Water Supply Assessment Update recommends continued water supply planning efforts in regions II, III and V and does not identify any new areas that need a regional water supply plan. The water demand projections will be updated again in 2013.*

*Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) implementation continues for Region II (Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties), with the plan updated in 2006. Additionally, new RWSPs were approved for Region V (Gulf and Franklin counties) in 2007 and Region III (Bay County) in 2008. Pursuant to these plans, the District continues to focus on alternative water supply development to ensure the long-term sustainability of water resources and natural systems.*

*The update, regional water supply plans, and associated documents and data may be found at:*

*[http://www.nwfwmd.state.fl.us/rmd/water\\_supply\\_planning/regional\\_water\\_supply\\_planning.html](http://www.nwfwmd.state.fl.us/rmd/water_supply_planning/regional_water_supply_planning.html).*

### REGION I

The Sand and Gravel Aquifer supplies drinking water to Escambia County and has enough water available to meet demand through 2030. The major concern in this Region is water quality. The Sand and Gravel Aquifer is quickly recharged by surface water and seepage. This means contaminants may quickly move into the aquifer. The Pensacola area has a long history of industrial land use and certain areas in southern Escambia County have experienced contamination problems. Local utilities have relocated wells and provided enhanced water treatment to meet water quality standards and provide safe drinking water. Monitoring wells have also been installed to provide information on contaminants in the aquifer and the District continues to provide technical assistance to utilities involved in siting new production wells.

### REGION II

The District recognized a problem in the coastal Floridan Aquifer in the 1970s and studies and evaluations were initiated. The 1998 Water Supply Assessment determined that existing and reasonable anticipated sources were not adequate for all existing legal users and anticipated future demands. A RWSP for Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties was approved in 2000 and updated in 2006. The plan originally considered a variety of alternative water supplies including the Inland Floridan Aquifer, Inland Sand and Gravel Aquifer, conservation, reclaimed water, aquifer storage and recovery, surface water and desalination. The most cost effective strategies pursued were inland wellfields, a new Shoal River basin surface water source, conservation and reclaimed water use.

The District assisted local governments and utilities in planning and funding alternative sources. Funding sources include the State Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund, District general revenues, Florida Forever capital improvements funds, the Water Management Lands Trust fund and local government and utility revenues. Since 2000 an additional 16.7 MGD of alternative supply has been developed.

In Santa Rosa County, an inland Sand and Gravel Aquifer wellfield has been developed and planning is underway to expand capacity. Utilities in Walton County have developed the inland Rock Hill wellfield and are also planning additional capacity. The District is continuing work with Okaloosa County to explore alternative water supply options for the coastal area. An option being planned is surface water withdrawals from the Shoal River along with a small reservoir situated along Shoal River tributaries.

### REGION III

Bay County is one of the only areas in the District that has traditionally relied on surface water as its drinking water source. Deer Point Lake Reservoir is the primary water source for the county. The reservoir is replenished primarily by Econfina Creek and the District has worked to protect the creek and the Sand Hill Lakes recharge area by purchasing over 42,000 acres in the Econfina Creek Basin.

Bay County was first recognized as a water supply area of special concern in the 1990s when groundwater withdrawals had caused a decline in coastal Floridan Aquifer levels by as much as 80 feet. Since that time, groundwater withdrawals along coastal Bay County have largely been abandoned in favor of expanded use of the Deer Point Lake Reservoir.

A Regional Water Supply Plan for Bay County was approved in 2008. The major concern is the vulnerability of the reservoir to drought and storm surge effects. Developing alternative supplies will diversify long-term public supply sources and will help drought-proof the region through establishing utility interconnections. It will also minimize vulnerability of salt water flowing into the reservoir during major hurricane surge events. The primary alternative water supply option is development of inland Floridan Aquifer wells. Water conservation and the use of reclaimed water are also encouraged to reduce demand for potable water throughout the region.

#### **REGION IV**

The five counties of this area (Holmes, Washington, Jackson, Calhoun and Liberty) are generally rural and have not experienced the growth of coastal counties. Their drinking water supply is the Floridan Aquifer and supplies are adequate to meet current and future demands. One of the more significant uses and demands for water in this region is agricultural irrigation. The District is continuing to assess and monitor consumption as well as help assure proper well placement for public supplies. A grant was also made to the City of Chipley for upgrades to its wastewater treatment facility that will remove discharge of wastewater from Holmes Creek and allow wastewater to be treated for use in landscape irrigation.

#### **REGION V**

Franklin and Gulf counties were identified as areas of special concern in the District's 1998 Water Supply Plan. The area relies on coastal wells drawing from the Floridan Aquifer and the plan recognized that coastal wells are subject to saltwater intrusion in the upper aquifer.

A Regional Water Supply Plan was approved in 2007 calling for development of sustainable and cost effective water supplies that will meet the needs of a growing population. The primary alternative water supply identified for Franklin County is developing an inland wellfield to withdraw groundwater from the Floridan Aquifer to serve coastal areas. The District has investigated quality and quantity of groundwater that may be sustainably withdrawn from inland areas.

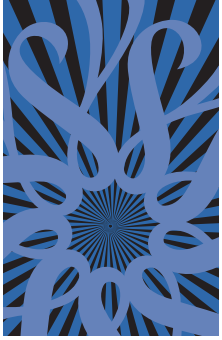
In Gulf County the preferred alternative is surface water from the Gulf County Fresh Water Supply Canal, formerly permitted for industrial supply. The District assisted the City of Port St. Joe in buying the canal and building a new surface water treatment plant. The City is currently using water from the canal as a public supply source.

#### **REGION VI**

The Floridan Aquifer beneath Gadsden County has limited yield and surface water is used for many non-potable uses. Public water supply wells are widely spaced to reduce draw-downs on the aquifer and surface water withdrawals from Telogia Creek are closely monitored. While a regional water supply plan is not needed at this time, water reuse is recommended for agricultural, nursery and landscape irrigation. The District has also funded two engineering studies to examine the feasibility of interconnecting public supply systems between Greensboro and Gretna. While a regional water supply plan is not needed at this time, water reuse is recommended for agricultural, nursery and landscape irrigation.

#### **REGION VII**

The Floridan Aquifer has adequate supplies to provide the public supply needs of Leon, Wakulla and western Jefferson counties. Reuse water is recommended for landscape irrigation to reduce withdrawals from the aquifer. The District contributed a \$1.35 million dollar grant to the City of Tallahassee to build an advanced treatment water reuse facility. The facility treats reclaimed wastewater to be used for commercial and residential landscaping and golf course irrigation.



# DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

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*Projects and programs undertaken during 2009 by the Northwest Florida Water Management District are described in this section. Projects and programs specific to the various county groupings are discussed in their respective sections. Many programs are ongoing and may not be included in this report.*



 Spring Creek in Jackson County

## Nuisance Shrub and Exotic Grass Eradication

Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) mitigation restoration sites benefited from a nuisance shrub and exotic grass eradication program. The work occurred on approximately 781 acres in Bay, Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton and Washington counties. The eradication targeted nuisance wetland shrubs and exotic pasture

grass using herbicide treatment that removed targeted species without disturbing the native vegetation. Nuisance plants compete with wiregrass and other native herbs and forbs impacting restoration efforts. All herbicides used were approved for wetlands use and applied in a manner that does not impact wetland soils. The activities were funded with DOT mitigation funds.



*Ward Creek restoration before*



*Ward Creek after nuisance shrub removal and planting of wiregrass and toothache grass*



## Habitat Restoration for FDOT Mitigation Projects

Habitat restoration was undertaken for 215 acres in Escambia, Franklin, Leon, Santa Rosa and Washington counties. Native hardwood tree species were planted in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties and herbaceous wetland species were planted at two sites in Franklin and Leon counties as part of the DOT mitigation projects. The Lake Jackson treatment marshes, on Megginis

activities at FDOT mitigation sites located on the Perdido River Water Management Area (WMA), the Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank and the Ward Creek West Tract.

## Map Modernization

An additional \$6,594,000 in funding was provided to the District from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to continue updating the Digital Flood



*Planting of native species at Megginis Arm*

Arm, will also be replanted after the removal of sediment from I-10 road work. These projects were funded with District, Florida Forever and DOT mitigation funds.

## District Lands Restoration Planned for 2009-10

Each year land management and habitat restoration activities are planned for portions of the 216,000 acres of land owned by the District. In April, plans were made to purchase 368,000 wet prairie wiregrass tubelings and 50,000 toothache grass tubelings for habitat restoration

Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM). Funds will be used to restudy and remap coastal flood hazard boundaries in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay and Gulf counties and inland floodplains in Okaloosa, Escambia, Santa Rosa, Bay and Gulf Counties. Also, funds will be used to provide additional detail in upland areas where the District has acquired LiDAR data in Okaloosa, Escambia, Santa Rosa, Bay and Gulf counties. Local governments and Florida universities are partners in this ongoing project.

## Integrated Water Resources Monitoring Program

District work for the statewide Integrated Water Resources Monitoring program will continue under an agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approved in June. The program provides water quality sampling at ground and surface water sites across the District. This data is a significant tool for assessing the quality of our water resources. The District will continue to collect and interpret water quality data from aquifers, rivers, streams and lakes.

## Ambient Surface Water Quality Monitoring

The District has participated in the ambient surface water quality assessment program with DEP for the past 20 years. In September the contract was renewed for another year. The program provides surface water data for assessment of long term water quality trends on major streams and rivers in the District. The data is used by DEP and the District to develop management strategies that will improve surface water quality. Funds for the program are provided by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to DEP.

## District Wide Ground Water Level Monitoring

The District expanded monitoring of ground water resources including quarterly water level measurements at a network of approximately 200 wells. The data generated from this network provides District staff with information to assist in management and regulatory assessments.

## District Automated Surface Water and Ground Water Resource Monitoring

The District continued to operate its network of water level, discharge, and rainfall stations. Continuous data is collected in the field by remote monitoring equipment and is used to assist in the District's resource assessments. Currently, 121 automated recorders are deployed.

## First Magnitude Springs Monitoring

The District continued quarterly discharge monitoring at first magnitude Floridan Aquifer springs. The springs monitored include Wakulla Spring, St. Marks Rise, Jackson Blue Spring and Gainer Springs. Second magnitude Cypress and Morrison springs are also being



*Springs sampling at Kade Hole in Jackson County*

sampled. Wakulla Spring and Jackson Blue Spring are routinely sampled and tested for water quality. Funding for this project is from the statewide Springs Initiative Program.

## Wetland Mitigation Program

In March, the Governing Board approved a new agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) to continue implementing the DOT wetlands mitigation program. The mitigation fund provides for significant water resources preservation and restoration through land acquisition, hydrologic and habitat restoration, wetlands enhancement, planning, administration, long-term maintenance, and monitoring for the purpose of wetlands mitigation. The District will be responsible for carrying out the plan found at [NFWMDwetlands.com](http://NFWMDwetlands.com). The plan is in accordance with section 373.4137, Florida Statutes and also fulfills federal regulatory requirements administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



*Dike was removed to restore hydrology at Yellow River Ranch*

## Independent Auditor's Report

In March, the independent auditor's report for the period of October 2007 to September 2008 was presented to the Governing Board. As in the past 15 years, the District received a clean audit, which is the highest level of assurance that can be given.

## Inspector General's Report

The District's Inspector General submitted an audit report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009 at the November Governing Board meeting. Areas reviewed included fringe benefits and overhead allocations, journal entries, items subject to personal use (cell phones, fleet vehicles, etc.), regulatory permitting, programmatic compliance, travel and information technology controls.

A plan was also presented for the 2009-2010 internal audit. The areas to be examined include: fringe benefits and overhead allocation, payroll, regulatory permitting, forensic procedures and information technology penetration testing.

## 2009 Florida Forever Land Acquisition Work Plan

The District adopted a new five-year work plan for land acquisition in a public hearing, as required by Florida Statutes. The 2009 work plan was amended to add approximately 4,000 acres for potential addition to the

Chipola River Water Management Area. The District is required to certify that each property considered for acquisition is consistent with the adopted five-year work plan. In April, the plan was again amended to add 809.85 acres on Perdido Bay and 130 acres on Holmes Creek. This additional acreage will be used to mitigate for DOT impacts.

## Security for District Lands

The District enters into a number of agreements to provide security and law enforcement services for District lands. In February the Governing Board approved an agreement with the Bay County Sheriff's Office to provide security for the Pitt Spring recreational area, Econfina Creek canoe launch and the District Land Management Office. This agreement will provide a deputy to patrol the area from April through September when these locations experience heavy use by swimmers and canoeists. An agreement with the Washington County Sheriff's office was also renewed in August. This contract will provide two deputies to patrol the Choctawhatchee River/Holmes Creek and Econfina Creek Water Management Areas.

In addition, in March the District renewed an agreement with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to assist with the protection and management of the Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank in Washington County. Under this agreement, FWC manages the property's allowable public recreation opportunities. This includes operating a check station, regulating public access and use, and enhanced law enforcement for natural resource and general property protection. An additional agreement with FWC was renewed in August to provide security for the Perdido River and Escambia River Water Management Areas, as well as, "enhanced patrol" services for potential problem areas.

## Environmental Resource Permitting

The District provided training for Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) and Compliance in several workshops throughout the area. Outreach was conducted to increase understanding of stormwater rules governing treatment of runoff from developments, both

during and after construction. Also, in June the District unveiled an electronic permitting portal making stormwater permit submission more efficient. Applicants will be able to save time and money by submitting applications and paying fees online.

ERP Phase II (wetlands) rule making continued throughout the year. The District plans to fully implement the wetland protection rule in 2010. The rule will increase protection of wetland systems from western Jefferson to Escambia counties. This will include isolated wetlands that have no hydrologic connection to named water bodies such as lakes, rivers, bays and reservoirs.

Regulatory authority will be divided between the District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

(DEP). The District will regulate systems in uplands and those with less than five acres of wetland impacts. DEP will regulate activities with impacts on five or more acres of wetlands and all in-water activities such as docks, marinas and other construction in sovereign submerged lands.

### New Consumptive Use Rules

In November the Governing Board approved a rule change to encourage the use of shallow wells for all non-potable uses, such as irrigation, in coastal Gulf and Franklin counties. The rule was amended to help preserve the Floridan Aquifer water for human consumption. The amendment expands an existing exemption that encourages use of the shallow Surficial Aquifer for non-potable uses.

| PERMITS ISSUED BY COUNTY (OCTOBER 2008 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2009) |  |   |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| County   | Well Construction Repair and Abandonment | Consumptive Use (new/renewal/modifications) | Management and Storage of Surface Water (general/individual) | Agricultural and Forestry, Surface Water Management (general/individual/forestry authorization) | Environmental Resource Permits (stormwater) |
| Bay  | 616                                      | 9   | -  | 26  | 63  |
| Calhoun  | 161                                      | -   | -  | 8   | 2   |
| Escambia   | 911                                      | 3   | -  | 17  | 74  |
| Franklin   | 59                                       | 12  | -  | 24  | 8   |
| Gadsden  | 152                                      | 6   | 1  | 21  | 14  |
| Gulf   | 82                                       | 2   | -  | 20  | 5   |
| Holmes   | 151                                      | 1   | -  | 16  | 1   |
| Jackson  | 402                                      | 14  | -  | 5   | 13  |
| Jefferson  | 42                                       | 1   | -  | 5   | 2   |
| Leon   | 252                                      | 2   | 4  | 5   | 55  |
| Liberty  | 35                                       | 1   | -  | 15  | 4   |
| Okaloosa   | 789                                      | 7   | 2  | 12  | 76  |
| Santa Rosa   | 693                                      | 11  | -  | 24  | 37  |
| Wakulla  | 99                                       | 3   | -  | 4   | 12  |
| Walton   | 423                                      | 4   | 1  | 26  | 41  |
| Washington   | 213                                      | 3   | -  | 6   | 12  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>5,080</b>                             | <b>79</b>                                   | <b>8</b>   | <b>234</b>  | <b>419</b>                                  |

## Water Supply Planning

The District evaluated the adequacy of water supplies across northwest Florida and found that existing and anticipated supplies, including alternative water supply sources, were sufficient to meet all anticipated demands over the next 20 years. No new regional water supply plans are recommended because existing and anticipated sources are expected to meet the 150 million gallons a day (mgd) estimated increase while sustaining water resources and associated natural systems. The District continues to work with local communities to ensure that public supplies are sufficient and safe in all regions. Regional water supply plans will continue to be implemented in Region II (Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties), Region III (Bay County) and Region IV (Gulf and Franklin counties) to identify appropriate alternative sources and implement water resource development and alternative water supply projects.

Recent project initiatives include planning for future development of reclaimed water and the interconnection of coastal utility systems.

## Coastal Water System Interconnect Project

The District is moving forward with plans to interconnect the water utilities in coastal communities from Gulf Breeze to Port St. Joe (Santa Rosa County through Gulf County). The project objective is to increase water supply reliability in coastal communities by allowing water movement between systems in the event of water shortages resulting from environmental emergencies, natural disasters or system failures. In April the District hired a contractor to provide planning, engineering, design, permitting and construction management services for the implementation of the project.

### EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

*Employees who have achieved milestones in their years of service are recognized each year by the Governing Board. Those recognized in 2009 included:*

**For 30 years of service:**

Maria Culbertson, Administrative Assistant II

**For 25 years of service:**

Ronald L. Bartel, Director, Division of Resource Management;

Stanley Tucker, Field Representative Specialist

**For 20 years of service:**

Thelma S. Whitfield, Administrative Assistant II;

Tyler Macmillan, Chief, Bureau of Lands Management Operations;

Elijah Simmons, Automotive Technician

**For 10 years of service:**

Allen R. Culpepper, Associate Field

Representative; Sonja Skipper, Receptionist ;

Eric Toole, Forest Lands Manager;

Anne Lester, Clerk

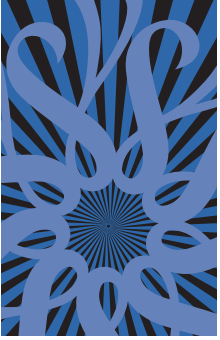
**For 5 years of service:**

John Morrill, Field Representative Specialist;

Barbara Lyninger, Assistant Permitting Specialist



*Maria Culbertson receiving 30 year plaque from Mr. Barr*



# JEFFERSON, LEON AND WAKULLA COUNTIES

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*Aerial view of St. Marks and Wakulla rivers*

## Okeeheepkee Prairie Stormwater Management Facility

Lake Jackson's water quality will benefit from a new stormwater management facility being built in the Okeeheepkee sub-basin. The facility will catch urban runoff from the North Monroe Street commercial corridor and residential areas that drain to Megginnis Arm, north of the interstate. The facility will be a wetland treatment system that will reduce nutrients, pesticides, greases, oils, sediments and other pollutants in runoff before it enters the lake. The District and Leon County have agreed to share the cost of construction. Leon County owns the property and will manage the facility upon completion.



*Okeeheepkee Stormwater Management Facility*

## St. Marks River Watershed Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan

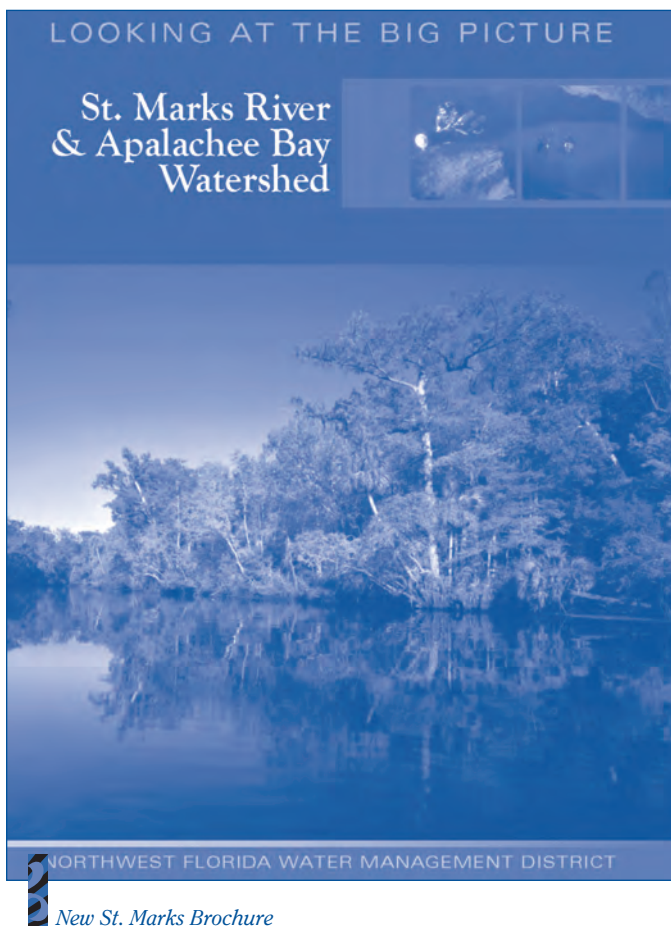
The District developed an updated St. Marks River Watershed Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) plan. The plan presents numerous strategies to sustain watershed resources and ecosystems from Lake Miccosukee to Apalachee Bay. Improving stormwater treatment continues to be a priority, along with protection of numerous springs and their ground water contribution areas. Other priorities include assessment of estuarine freshwater needs, habitat restoration and education and outreach. The plan is available on the District's website.

## Educational Publications for the St. Marks Watershed

A new brochure, *Looking at the Big Picture: St. Marks River and Apalachee Bay Watershed*, was completed and made available to the public to provide information about this significant resource. It features the basin's

unique hydrogeological characteristics and our role in the watershed. Professional photographs showcase the watershed's beauty and its karst features, such as spring-fed rivers, coastal marshes and disappearing streams. The brochure describes the District's research efforts into surface water quality, shows geological cutaway diagrams and highlights District partnerships to address environmental impacts. The St. Marks River watershed includes the St. Marks and Wakulla rivers and numerous springs. The brochure opens to a poster/photo of Fisher Creek sink in southern Leon County.

The District also developed an educational poster, *St. Marks River Watershed*, for distribution to area schools. The poster is an original illustration showing a non-technical overview of the topographical, geological, biological and hydrological features of the St. Marks River watershed. It was designed to introduce children to the geology of the area. Both publications are available by contacting the District's Public Information Office.



 *Aerial of St. Marks River*

## Land Acquisitions

In March, the Governing Board approved the purchase of a 192-acre conservation easement in Leon County. This is a joint purchase with Blueprint 2000 under an agreement protecting the water resources and natural habitat values of the St. Marks River watershed in Leon

County. Blueprint 2000 and the District will each pay one-half the purchase price and associated expenses. The property is located on the south side of McCracken Road and the east side of Sunrise Road and abuts Black Creek Swamp and the Miccosukee Land Coop. A majority of the property consists of mesic upland hardwood, mixed bottomland hardwood, cypress dome, and drains into Black Creek. The District has purchased the development and land use conversion rights and preserved 102 acres of upland hardwood, bottomland hardwood and cypress dome habitat.

stations. The program provides storm event and base flow discharge data for the major drainage basins in Leon County. The data provides continuous records of rainfall and surface water discharges that are used to design and implement improvements in the stormwater drainage system. Making the data publicly available reduces flood risks and damage. The data gathered also facilitates retrofit projects that reduce flooding and improves water quality. The District has operated the network for 18 years.

## Quincy Stormwater Management

An \$80,000 grant was awarded to the City of Quincy to help the City evaluate stormwater and flooding conditions in the Tanyard Branch Basin of the Ochlockonee River watershed. The project will identify feasible project alternatives and funding strategies for construction of stormwater facilities to reduce flooding and pollutant loads. Open creeks, ditches, stormwater pipes and drains will be evaluated. The District will also provide highly accurate Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) elevation data to help the City identify cross-sections, grades and flood boundaries.

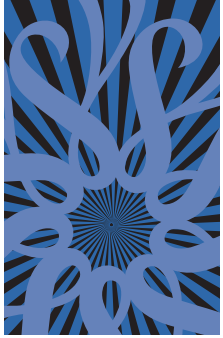
## Capital Cascade Park Watershed Restoration Project

The District continues its partnership with Blueprint 2000 to improve stormwater management in the City of Tallahassee. A grant of \$300,000 was awarded to Blueprint 2000 to contribute to water quality and habitat improvements at the Capital Cascade Trail project in downtown Tallahassee. The funding will help construct stormwater treatment facilities, restore the stream and wetlands, plant natural vegetation and develop other stormwater best management practices. The project is expected to help alleviate flooding in the area and improve water quality in downstream Lake Munson.

## Leon County Stormwater Monitoring

In September, the District renewed an agreement with the City of Tallahassee and Leon County to continue operating a stormwater flow monitoring program that includes 51 surface water and rainfall data collection





# CALHOUN, FRANKLIN, GADSDEN, GULF, JACKSON AND LIBERTY COUNTIES

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## Land Acquisitions

Two tracts were purchased to help protect the Chipola River in 2009. In January, approval was given for the purchase of approximately 338 acres in Jackson County along the Chipola River. The property is located on the

directly across the Chipola River from Christoff Landing on the District's Upper Chipola River Water Management Area and will be accessible to the public by boat.

A portion of the middle Chipola River corridor, including Look-n-Tremble rapids, will be protected by a District



 *Look and Tremble rapids on the Chipola River*

east side of the Chipola River and consists primarily of mixed bottomland hardwood habitat associated with the floodplain of the Chipola River. The property includes over 1.5 miles of Chipola River frontage and the northern most spring of the Baltzell Spring Group. It is

purchase approved in October. The 1,375-acre tract in Calhoun County includes 3.5 miles of river frontage north and south of County Road 274, three perennial streams and seven diverse upland and wetland habitats. The District plans to make the area available for



*Baltzell Spring on the Chipola River*

recreation activities, subject to public input. These may include canoeing, tubing, hiking, fishing, hunting, birding, primitive camping and nature appreciation.

### Public Access Enhanced at Florida River Island

Vehicle access to 6,000 acres of District property at Florida River Island, in the Apalachicola River Water Management Area, will be enhanced through an agreement between the District and Liberty County. The District provided up to \$225,000 to the county to conduct road repair, improvement and maintenance to three public access roads. The majority of the funds will be used to purchase limerock for road repair and improvements. The county or their contractor will conduct the work. Private contractors were hired to install several low water crossings. In addition, \$25,000 of the funds will be used by the county for perpetual management and maintenance of public access roads, bridges, low water crossings, boat ramps, parking areas and other recreational facilities once road repair and improvement activities have been completed.

### Hydrologic Restoration in Whiskey George Basin

Approval was given in January to begin hydrologic restoration of the Whiskey George Basin. This project is

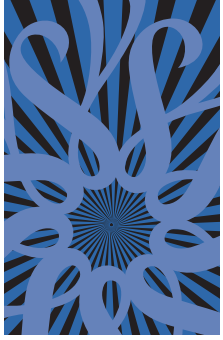
part of a much larger restoration plan the District is developing in cooperation with the Florida Division of Forestry covering approximately 205,000 acres in Tate's Hell State Forest. The Whiskey George project will include removal and recontouring of approximately six miles of dirt logging roads and roadsides ditches, construction of five low water crossings and one ditch plug, and improvement of five culverts. This project is expected to improve the water quality of stormwater runoff discharged into Whiskey George Creek and East Bay. The bay is an important estuarine system that serves as the primary nursery area for fish and other marine organisms in the Apalachicola Bay system. This restoration will enhance wetland function, restore historic wet savannas and improve fish and wildlife habitat within Tate's Hell State Forest. Funding for this project was provided through a special legislative appropriation and Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) wetland mitigation funds.

### Water Interconnect Project

The District awarded a \$100,000 grant to the City of Carrabelle to help develop a potable water system interconnection with the Alligator Point Water Resources District. This grant will allow Carrabelle to evaluate the current water system and plan an interconnection that will benefit both systems. The project will also include a water rate study that supports enactment of a conservation rate structure.

### Grant to Eastpoint Water and Sewer District

A \$59,330 grant was awarded to the Eastpoint Water and Sewer District for alternative water supply planning. The agreement provides funding for development of a ground water model and an assessment of impacts associated with projected demands. The effects of increased withdrawals over the next five to ten years and the long term sustainability of the ground water supply will be evaluated. Funding for the grant was from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund.



# BAY, HOLMES, OKALOOSA, WALTON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

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*Restored shoreline in Lynn Haven*

## Bay County Alternative Water Supply

In January the District awarded a \$2.1 million dollar grant to Bay County for developing an inland ground water source. Planned facilities include several Floridan Aquifer wells, pumps, treatment systems and transmission pipelines. Bay County currently relies on Deer Point Lake Reservoir to meet the majority of public water supply needs. This project will help ensure sufficient potable water supplies in the event of a drought, hurricane or other event that may affect the existing surface water supply. This funding is in addition to a \$5.47 million grant previously awarded to the


county. Bay County will provide additional funding for the project, which is estimated to cost \$15 million.

## Econfina Springs Complex Restoration

A public workshop was held at Pitt Spring, Bay County, in January to discuss and receive public input on proposed spring restoration and protection activities for Pitt and Sylvan springs. Proposed improvements include removing the cracked retaining wall at Pitt Spring and restoring it to a more natural condition using limestone boulders and native vegetation. Plans also include

enhancing the canoe dock and installing a float tube launching dock. To protect the springs and sensitive shorelines from erosion the design includes boardwalks,



 Pitt Spring retaining wall will be replaced

viewing decks and decorative wooden rail fencing. Improved parking, a composting restroom and picnic pavilions are also proposed. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring of 2010.

## Volunteers Improve Trail on Econfina Creek



 Volunteers completed this bridge on Econfina Creek

Volunteers led by the Florida Trail Association and the USDA Forest Service completed the second of two wooden suspension bridges across Econfina Creek, on the District's Econfina Creek Water Management Area. A Recreational Trails Program grant administered by the Office of Greenways and Trails and funding from the U.S. Forest Service, helped pay for materials, equipment and volunteer support.

Volunteers used innovative construction techniques to prevent adverse impacts to the habitat by reducing heavy equipment footprints. Contractors parked a cement truck on a designated road and provided a pumping trailer to send concrete through 500 feet of hose to fill bridge abutments. Volunteers also rigged wire cables, winches and straps to transport a Bobcat loader across



 Completed Fender Bridge on Econfina Creek

the creek to minimize damage. The bridges replace two old makeshift bridges, making the Florida Trail more accessible to the public.

## Interconnecting Freeport Water Supply

In January the District awarded a \$750,000 grant to the City of Freeport to construct a water transmission line between Portland and Choctaw Beach. The 12-inch water main will also interconnect the city's main water system to its North Bay system. This initiative will improve the

reliability of public water supply and help drought proof a designated Water Resource Caution Area. The City will lay approximately 35,900 feet of water line at an estimated cost of \$1.3-1.7 million. The District has made continuing investments in sustaining the region's water resources and this project is expected to complement long-term efforts by the District and local governments to protect water resources throughout the region.

## Alternative Water Supply

An additional \$500,000 in grant funding was awarded to Florida Community Services Corporation of Walton County (Regional Utilities) to expand the alternative water supply system serving southern Walton County. This project helps implement the Regional Water Supply Plan for Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties. The plan specifies development of the inland Floridan Aquifer as a preferred alternative water supply source for coastal Walton County.

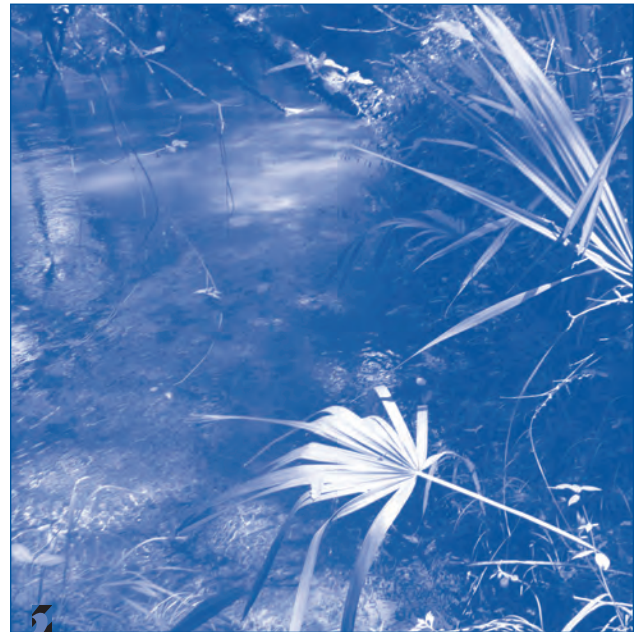
## Callaway to Extend Water and Sewer Lines to Allanton

A 16-inch water main is planned to extend from Callaway through the Allanton peninsula. The District will provide up to \$100,000 in funding to help the City of Callaway to extend water and wastewater service east of the city limits. Approximately 1300 residences are expected to receive water and sewer as a result of this extension. This will help ensure sustainable water resources for residents in the area and also prevent a proliferation of septic tanks close to East Bay.

## District Provides Funds for Natural Bridge Rise

The District awarded an \$118,000 grant to help Walton County acquire Natural Bridge Rise and surrounding property. This purchase is expected to provide numerous public benefits including water quality and flood protection, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreational resources. Natural Bridge Creek, in northern Walton County, flows northeasterly toward the Choctawhatchee River. At several places the creek disappears into swallets and reappears further downstream. The creek rises west

of Natural Bridge Road, flows a short distance, and enters a swallet that takes the flow under the road. It emerges on the other side of the road as an eight foot spring window known as Natural Bridge Rise. Included in the proposed purchase are the rise, part of the creek, and adjacent lands that provide a protective buffer for the waterway. The creek and rise have been impacted by erosion and sedimentation from nearby dirt roads and property. The District will work with Walton County to restore this important environmental resource.



*Natural Bridge Creek, near the rise*

## Land Acquisitions

Two purchases in 2009 will provide additional protection to the Choctawhatchee River and Bay system. The District purchased 121.5 acres on Holmes Creek in Washington County. This property will be used as a Department of Transportation (DOT) mitigation for two bridge replacements on Highway 79. The parcel is also adjacent to existing District property and will provide public access for District lands north of Holmes Creek. This property was acquired with Florida Forever funds.

In June the Governing Board approved the purchase of 40 acres in Walton County on Live Oak Point Peninsula. The property is located north of Hogtown Bayou and

south of Choctawhatchee Bay. The property consists of estuarine marsh habitat and will be used to address DOT mitigation needs and enhance water resource protection of the Choctawhatchee Bay.

primitive campsites, rail fencing, picnic tables, grills and fire circles. The District will provide up to \$175,000 and Walton County will provide final designs, permits and all personnel and equipment.



*Live Oak Point on Choctawhatchee Bay*

## Boat Landing Repairs and Improvements on Choctawhatchee River and Holmes Creek

In October the Governing Board approved an agreement with Walton County for repairs to River Landing and Dead River Landing. At River Landing the District will provide up to \$25,000 to build a boardwalk for bank fishing just south of the landing. Walton County will provide final designs, permits and all personnel and equipment needed to construct the boardwalk. Planned repairs at Dead River Landing include a paved parking area with associated stormwater facilities, retaining walls, a floating dock/pedestrian ramp, eight primitive RV campsites (no water, electricity or dumping station),

The Governing Board also approved an agreement with Washington County for improvement to Hightower, Spurling and Live Oak landings on Holmes Creek. Hightower Landing is scheduled for a parking area and stormwater facilities, bank stabilization, limerock access road, rail fencing and a boardwalk and deck overlooking the spring pool. A limerock parking lot will be constructed at Spurling Landing along with picnic areas, primitive camping sites, rail fencing, grills and fire circles. Live Oak Landing needs ramp repair and significant creek bank stabilization. Additional parking and stormwater facilities will also be constructed.

## Corridors of Life: The Saint Andrew Bay Watershed

The District, in conjunction with The Quest Foundation, released a film on the St. Andrew Bay Watershed. The film highlights the District's water supply and water resource protection mission as well as land management, habitat restoration and public access and recreation in the 41,000 acre Econfina Creek Water Management Area. It includes sections on the geology of the area, wildlife, trails and springs. The film was distributed to middle and high schools in the St. Andrew Bay Watershed and was aired on the Florida Education Channel. The film recently received a Gold Award from the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals.

## Grant Funds for Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance

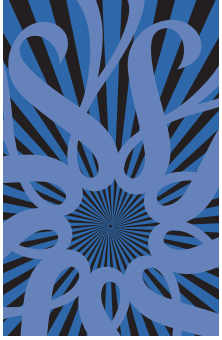
The District has maintained a productive relationship with the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) for many years. This has included cooperative implementation of water quality monitoring, public outreach and education and nonpoint source pollution abatement activities as outlined in the District's Choctawhatchee River and Bay Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan. The CBA has recently completed two stormwater retrofit facilities in cooperation with the District, the City of Destin and Walton County. A grant of \$50,000 approved in August will help CBA continue its efforts during the next year.

## Deer Point Watershed Monitoring

The District continued its water resources monitoring in the Deer Point Lake basin, the principle source of drinking water in Bay County. The monitoring program includes six stage and discharge stations and three rainfall stations in the Deer Point Lake watershed. These monitoring stations measure continuous discharge, rainfall and stage levels in the Deer Point Lake watershed. Preservation and management of this vital resource is a priority for Bay County and the District. The District has actively participated in the protection and management of this resource through land acquisition and protection activities along Econfina Creek, which is the principal tributary supplying Deer Point Lake.

## Bay County Stormwater Monitoring

The District continued to provide monitoring and technical assistance to Bay County for its stormwater conveyance system. The District operates and maintains continuous data recorders at one stage station, one stage/discharge station and three rainfall stations. The data collected for this program assists Bay County in monitoring stormwater discharge to Deer Point Lake and adjacent bays.



# ESCAMBIA AND SANTA ROSA COUNTIES

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*Pitcher plants on Garcon Point*

## Land Acquisitions

In January the Governing Board approved the purchase of 820 acres on Perdido Bay in Escambia County. The property lies west of Saufley Field, south of Redfish Point and north of Ramsey Beach. The property is bisected by a stormwater ditch owned by the U.S. Navy that conveys water off Saufley Field runway into Perdido Bay. The western parcel borders Eleven Mile Creek and will protect approximately one mile of Perdido Bay shoreline and one mile of the eastern bank of the creek. This property will provide mitigation for Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) improvements on U.S. Highway 98 and Blue Angel Parkway. The District will mitigate for highway construction by preserving and restoring wetlands on the property.

## Lands Restoration

Hydrologic restoration at the Yellow River Ranch parcel, purchased in 2005, has continued throughout the year. Approximately 153 acres of the parcel were intact bottomland and cypress/tupelo floodplain habitat, while



*Perdido Bay Property*

121 acres had been converted to improved pasture. The District initiated wetland restoration by removing cattle, breaching sections of ten-foot tall dikes, filling drainage ditches, and eradicating exotic trees and pasture grasses. The District also conducted the first prescribed burn in February for 13 acres of wet flatwoods with an excellent recovery of flatwood species. Additional wet pine flatwoods, bottomland hardwoods, and wet prairie wiregrass will be planted on the site in early 2010. These habitat restoration activities help mitigate unavoidable wetland impacts from road widening by DOT.

Along the Perdido River, 67 acres are undergoing habitat restoration while also preserving rare orchid species, parrot and white-top pitcher plants. The District has removed fire suppressed shrubs and leveled large windrows to help restore wet pine savannah and bottomland hardwood habitat. Bottomland hardwoods and wiregrass will be planted on the site in early 2010.





*Controlled burn on Yellow River Ranch*

Future prescribed fires in the pine flatwoods and wet prairie will encourage the release of native seeds and help enhance the native habitat.



*Native grass on Yellow River Ranch*

### Perdido River Canoe Launch

In 2006, the District purchased 5,456 acres on the Perdido River in Escambia County. A series of public workshops were held to develop public access and recreation plans for the property. It was determined that Fillingim Landing should be developed as a recreational site. In March the Governing Board approved the

construction of a canoe/kayak/small carry-in boat launch with a small parking area and basic picnic facilities. Construction of the launch ramp and dock was completed in the fall and improvements to the adjacent parking and recreation area are underway.

### Gulf Power’s Crist Plant Recognized for Water Reuse

In July the Governing Board passed a resolution recognizing and supporting the commitment of Gulf Power Company to use reclaimed water at the James F. Crist Electric Generating Plant in Escambia County. The company is installing a new scrubber system to reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide and mercury. This system requires substantial amounts of water to remove pollutants prior to release. Gulf Power has committed to using reclaimed water from the new Central Water Reclamation Facility rather than surface and ground water resources.



*Perdido River canoe launch*

# COMBINED BALANCE SHEET

NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

September 30, 2009

## Assets

### Current Assets:

|                             |           |                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents   | \$        | 198,748           |
| Investments                 |           | 71,512,477        |
| Accounts Receivable         |           | 183,680           |
| Due From Other Governments  |           | 6,299,769         |
| Due From Other Funds        |           | 8,030,509         |
| Deposits                    |           | 7,713             |
| Prepaid Items               |           | 2,839             |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>86,235,735</b> |

### General Capital Assets (Net of Applicable Depreciation):

|                                   |           |                    |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Land and Improvements             | \$        | 161,057,419        |
| Buildings and Improvements        |           | 1,688,467          |
| Machinery and Equipment           |           | 1,695,556          |
| <b>Total General Fixed Assets</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>164,441,442</b> |

### Other Debits:

|   |           |                |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| Amount to be Provided for Retirement of<br>General Long-Term Debt | \$        | 671,380        |
| <b>Total Other Debits</b>   | <b>\$</b> | <b>671,380</b> |

**Total Assets and Other Debits** **\$ 251,348,557**

## Liabilities and Fund Equity

### Liabilities:

|                                    |           |                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Accounts Payable and Accruals      | \$        | 1,564,938         |
| Deferred Revenue                   |           | 24,807,403        |
| Due to Other Funds                 |           | 8,030,509         |
| Liability for Compensated Absences |           | 671,380           |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>           | <b>\$</b> | <b>35,074,230</b> |

### Fund Equity:

|                                      |    |             |
|--------------------------------------|----|-------------|
| Investment in General Capital Assets | \$ | 164,441,442 |
|--------------------------------------|----|-------------|

### Fund Balances:

#### Reserved:

|                             |           |                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Prepaid Items               | \$        | 2,839             |
| Land Acquisition            | \$        | 3,824,987         |
| Land Management/Acquisition |           | 7,120,351         |
| Mitigation                  |           | 1,098,387         |
| <b>Total Reserved</b>       | <b>\$</b> | <b>12,046,564</b> |

#### Unreserved:

|                         |           |                   |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Undesignated            | \$        | 474,941           |
| Designated              |           | 39,311,380        |
| <b>Total Unreserved</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>39,786,321</b> |

**Total Fund Balance** **\$ 51,832,885**

**Total Liabilities and Fund Equity** **\$ 251,348,557**

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2009

## **Revenue and Other Receipts**

Federal Sources:

|   |           |                  |
|---|-----------|------------------|
| US DOT/FDOT-Efficient Transportation Decision Making    | \$        | 76,275           |
| DEP/EPA Surface Water Sampling Grant Awards             |           | 125,375          |
| DEP-Ambient Monitoring                                  |           | 169,104          |
| FEMA-Map Modernization / Cooperative Technical Partners |           | 2,495,171        |
| <b>Total Federal Sources</b>                            | <b>\$</b> | <b>2,865,925</b> |

State and Local Government Sources:

|  |           |                   |
|--|-----------|-------------------|
| DEP-Statewide Surface Water Restoration Projects           | \$        | 2,276,139         |
| DEP-Chapter 62-524 F.A.C. Program Implementation           |           | 60,000            |
| DEP-General Appropriations                                 |           | 1,044,926         |
| DEP-Florida Forever Trust Fund                             |           | 7,439,616         |
| DEP-Water Management Lands Trust Fund                      |           | 5,867,699         |
| DEP-Payment in Lieu of Taxes (WMLTF)                       |           | 46,561            |
| DEP-Surface Water Management Permitting Program (Wetlands) |           | 300,000           |
| DEP-Florida Springs Initiative                             |           | 98,325            |
| DEP-Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund         |           | 2,117,744         |
| DEP-Environmental Resource Permitting                      |           | 3,840,000         |
| DOT-Mitigation Plan and Restoration Projects               |           | 1,127,967         |
| Leon County Stormwater Monitoring                          |           | 122,700           |
| Bay County Stormwater Monitoring                           |           | 9,700             |
| Bay County Deer Point Watershed Monitoring                 |           | 34,763            |
| Washington Co. School Board - Interim Lands Mgmt           |           | 5,293             |
| Leon County - Construction of Okeeheepkee RSTF             |           | 256,806           |
| Sale of Mitigation Credits - Local Government              |           | 115,500           |
| Other Funding  |           | 202               |
| <b>Total State and Local Government Sources</b>            | <b>\$</b> | <b>24,763,941</b> |

NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Agency Sources:

|                              |           |                   |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Ad Valorem Taxes (.045 mill) | \$        | 4,538,582         |
| Permit and Inspection Fees   |           | 397,330           |
| Regulatory Penalties         |           | 66,650            |
| Interest                     |           | (106,549)         |
| Timber Sales                 |           | 1,049,835         |
| Miscellaneous                |           | 80,158            |
| <b>Total Agency Sources</b>  | <b>\$</b> | <b>6,026,006</b>  |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>        | <b>\$</b> | <b>33,655,872</b> |

Other Sources:

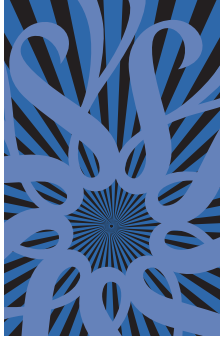
|   |           |                   |
|---|-----------|-------------------|
| Sale of General Fixed Assets                          | \$        | 6,908             |
| <b>Total Other Sources</b>                            | <b>\$</b> | <b>6,908</b>      |
| <b>Balance Brought Forward from Prior Fiscal Year</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>47,450,983</b> |
| <b>Total Revenue, Other Sources and Cash Balance</b>  | <b>\$</b> | <b>81,113,763</b> |

**Expenditures**

|                                  |           |                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Salaries and Benefits            | \$        | 8,666,223         |
| Contractual Services-Consultants |           | 5,563,573         |
| Operating Expenses               |           | 2,540,889         |
| Grants and Aids                  |           | 8,906,339         |
| Operating Capital Outlay         |           | 3,603,854         |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>        | <b>\$</b> | <b>29,280,878</b> |

**Fund Balance**

|  |           |                   |
|--|-----------|-------------------|
| Reserved:                                  |           |                   |
| Prepaid Items                              | \$        | 2,839             |
| Land Acquisition                           | \$        | 3,824,987         |
| Land Management/Acquisition                |           | 7,120,351         |
| Mitigation                                 |           | 1,098,387         |
| <b>Total Reserved</b>                      | <b>\$</b> | <b>12,046,564</b> |
| Unreserved:                                |           |                   |
| Undesignated                               | \$        | 474,941           |
| Designated                                 |           | 39,311,380        |
| <b>Total Unreserved</b>                    | <b>\$</b> | <b>39,786,321</b> |
| <b>Total Expenditures and Fund Balance</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>81,113,763</b> |



# NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



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