

NAME: Alligator Creek Addition Restoration Project

LOCATION: Charlotte County, Florida

ACRES/RIVER MILES: 350 acres

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR(S):

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The primary goal of this project is to restore the historic saltern that once comprised the majority of the west central portions of the Alligator Creek Addition parcel. The area has been severely impacted by the construction of mosquito ditches, which functioned to divert water flow and subsequently altered the hydroperiod of the saltern. Restoration will involve backfilling approximately 35,000 linear feet of mosquito ditches. Backfilling will allow a more diffuse sheet flow of fresh water from upland areas and will allow extreme high tide events to flood the salterns and slowly flow out through the mangrove forest fringe to the west. This project is anticipated to restore the natural hydroperiod, raise the interstitial salinities, and restore the natural sill in the saltern resulting in approximately 350 acres of saltern restoration and enhancement.

EXPECTED BENEFITS:

This project will restore and increase the diversity of coastal habitats by returning the historic hydroperiod and historic function to the area. The project will also complement and enhance the environmental value of adjacent restoration activities.

STATUS: Post-Construction Monitoring