Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition
Map of tupelo honey apiaries locates Ogeechee tupelo stands down to Mile 10

Douglas and Spiders Cut

Drying of swamps is documented in area with no channel erosion

Riverine-tidal boundary for swamps is now established at Mile 12

Bottomland hardwoods
Swamps
Marsh

Wewahitchka
Sumatra gage

Watson 2010

la Cecilia et al. 2016

Anderson and Lockaby 2011
Swamps are much more prevalent in the lowest 30 miles.

River flows affect water levels down to ~Mile 14 (based on new research).

Previous research focused mainly on the impact of channel erosion, but new research indicates that, in most of these swamps, decreased flow has had far more impact.
Number of trees in swamps has declined dramatically

- 35% decline
- 69% decline

The decline in number of trees could likely result in a decline in biomass.

- 1976 Canopy: 1,098 Swamp species, 34 Low BLH species, 1 High BLH species
- 2004 Canopy: 661 Swamp species, 65 Low BLH species, 6 High BLH species
- 2004 Subcanopy: 144 Swamp species, 68 Low BLH species, 13 High BLH species

Darst & Light 2008
Sediments to be removed

- Template shall be below the river discharge stage = to 5000 cfs or lower
- Template shall not impact banks, leaving appropriate buffer
- Template shall not impact bottom, leaving buffer between imported sand and natural substrate
Figure 6. Illustration of high, transitional (medium), and low flow period designations (Median Daily Flow – Apalachicola at Chattahoochee for POR 1939-2008).
Douglas Slough
What the project will accomplish

- Sand removal in three sloughs
- Documenting the benefits for this type of restoration
- Develop and test methods for the cost effective and environmentally sound way in which to conduct this work.

- Conduct monitoring and analysis that specifically relates the benefits of slough restoration and hydrologic connectivity of the mainstem of the river to the floodplain
- Develop a Geomorphic/Hydrologic Restoration Plan
- Provide public outreach and education.
The healthy mix of nutrients that come out of this system fuel Eastern Gulf of Mexico fishery.
Project Team
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ApalachicolaRiverkeeper.org