

Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) study confirms large diversions of Apalachicola River water and sediment away from Apalachicola Bay and unnatural discharges into St. Joe Bay and St. Andrew Bay.

(See NFWFMD Study attached)

Over Seven hundred and fifty BILLION gallons diverted and unnaturally discharged EACH YEAR (Two thirds the volume of Lake Okeechobee)

2.05 BILLION gallons of Apalachicola River Water and sediment diverted away from Apalachicola Bay EACH DAY

1.6 BILLION gallons of Apalachicola River Water and sediment harmfully discharged into St. Joe bay EACH DAY

600 MILLION gallons of Apalachicola River Water and sediment harmfully discharged into St. Andrew Bay EACH DAY

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) breached the watershed boundary between St. Andrew Watershed and Apalachicola River Watershed with the GIWW in the vicinity of White City in early 1900's.

(See USGS and USACE watershed maps attached)

This REVERSED THE FLOW of the Jackson River and created this massive diversion.

NFWFMD and FDEP have done an excellent job of identifying these problems.

Since the GIWW is a federally managed navigable waterway the ONLY ENTITY WITH JURISDICTION involving this waterway is the USACE.

USACE has indicated a willingness to partner with the State to study this problem and develop and implement solutions. The Corps has produced an Initial Advisory Report on this issue (See 216 IA attachment)

For less than 500K per year for three years Florida can structure a study in partnership with the Corps to study and correct this diversion and discharge.

The Corps has indicated responsibility for the dredging of the GIWW, and responsibility for addressing any problems it may be causing.

The taxpayers of the State of Florida should not be the only party burdened with the costs of these studies, or their solutions, especially with the Federal Government indicating willingness to be involved.

This will save Florida taxpayers multiple Millions in tax dollars. Why would the State continue to study this issue by themselves with State tax dollars when they have NO jurisdiction to solve the problem?

With the joint State and Corps study the USACE has indicated responsibility for the solution, again, saving multiple Millions of State Taxpayer Dollars.

Each day delayed diverts another 2.05 BILLION gallons of Apalachicola River Water and Sediment away from Apalachicola Bay and unnaturally discharges it into St. Joe Bay and St. Andrew Bay.