

## Final Selection Criteria for Project Proposals

On December 2, 2021, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) presented draft criteria for selection of projects proposed for funding under FP3b programs in Florida. After the 45-day public comment period ended, FDEP finalized its selection criteria as described below. FDEP will announce solicitation(s) for projects via GovDelivery email subscription and on its website.

### Eligibility Screening

Eligibility will be determined by the geographic location and consistency with RESTORE Comprehensive Plan Goals and Objectives. The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE Council), which administers RESTORE Council-Selected Restoration Component (Bucket 2) and Spill Impact Component (Bucket 3) funds, maintains a [Comprehensive Plan](#) and subsequent [Planning Framework](#) of priority approaches and restoration techniques. The information provided in the table represents the geographic extent and Comprehensive Goals and Objectives for FPL 3b programs in Florida.

Program Name	Geographical Extent	Comprehensive Plan Goal	Comprehensive Plan Objective	Eligible Technique(s)
<b>Gulf Coast Resiliency Program</b>	23 Gulf Coast Counties	Enhance Community Resilience	Promote Community Resilience	Specified in Solicitation
<b>Gulf Coast Tributaries Hydrologic Restoration Program</b>	Watersheds that drain to the Gulf of Mexico (8-digit <a href="#">Hydrologic Unit Code</a> )	Restore Water Quality and Quantity	Restore, Improve and Protect Water Resources	Specified in Solicitation
<b>Florida Water Quality Improvement Program</b>	Watersheds that drain to the Gulf of Mexico (8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code)	Restore Water Quality and Quantity	Restore, Improve and Protect Water Resources	Specified in Solicitation

### Project Screening:

Project proposals will be evaluated in three areas: technical, feasibility, and project status. Best Available Science (BAS) must be used to demonstrate the technical and feasibility aspects of the project.

Applicants should provide appropriate technical justification and citations to support their assertions of project benefits and the appropriateness of their methods. Similarly, BAS should be used to assess risks to both the project and the environment (e.g. climate pollution, changing land use).

#### Technical Criteria

- Extent to which project will address environmental benefits using BAS.
- Whether the project is consistent with existing plans (e.g., Basin Management Action Plans, Minimum Flow Levels, Surface Water Improvement and Management Plans, or the Florida State Expenditure Plan, etc.).

#### Feasibility Criteria

- Short-term and long-term risks, as well as proposed measures to mitigate such risks and uncertainties, using BAS.

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- Cost-effectiveness relative to benefits.
- Project sustainability is adequately addressed, including:
  - For projects that will require ongoing operation and maintenance, project sponsors will need to demonstrate strong operation and management capabilities, as well as financial resources, to assure the long-term success of the project. This information is not intended to prevent small or disadvantaged communities from participating in the programs.
  - For projects proposed under the Florida Gulf Coast Resiliency Program, project-specific resiliency (use of BAS to determine a project’s vulnerability to applicable climate risks under varying future scenarios, including but not limited to sea level rise, alterations in rainfall patterns, or potential increases in hurricane intensity).
- Extent to which the project proposal is supported by the local community.

### Project Status

- Readiness to proceed.
- Extent to which project proposal leverages other funding sources, adjoins or builds upon other achievements.
- Status of environmental compliance (for implementation projects).

### Other Factors

**Regional Project:** Whether the project represent a “regional” effort, meaning more than one county, municipality, and/or water management district.

**Disadvantaged Community:** Whether the project is located within a disadvantaged community under Chapters 218 or 288, Florida Statutes.