



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tall Timbers Awarded Millions in Regional Conservation Partnership Program Funding

Tallahassee, Fla. – April 16, 2020 – The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently awarded Tall Timbers a grant up to \$7 million to implement conservation work in both Georgia and Florida. The work will take place through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), a five-year, partner-driven program that leverages funds to solve natural resource challenges on both natural and agricultural lands through the 2018 Farm Bill.

“I’m excited to announce the first RCPP awards under the 2018 Farm Bill,” said NRCS Chief Matthew Lohr. “Through collaboration and aligning our resources toward a common goal, we’re making an impact for natural resource conservation that could never have been realized on our own.”

This project seeks to improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and economic opportunities in both the Aucilla and St. Marks River watersheds. The project will accomplish these goals by funding the purchase of conservation easements, habitat management on public and private lands, cost-share programs with agricultural producers, community events to raise awareness about the watershed, and even an experimental program in the Gulf of Mexico to benefit the oyster industry.

Though Tall Timbers is the lead organization, it will be working with a wide range of partners on implementing this project. These partners include the Suwannee River Water Management District, Aucilla Research Institute, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Forest Service, Apalachee Audubon Society, Wakulla Environmental Institute, and numerous private landowners.

Project activities are expected to begin in fall of 2020. If you are a private landowner or agricultural producer and are interested in getting involved, please contact Peter Kleinhenz, the Aucilla Watershed Coalition Coordinator for Tall Timbers, at pkleinhenz@talltimbers.org or Shane Wellendorf, Tall Timbers Conservation Coordinator, at swell@talltimbers.org.

Tall Timbers was established in 1958 with a mission to foster exemplary land stewardship through research, conservation and education. The primary research focus at Tall Timbers is the ecology and management of fire-dependent ecosystems, and the wildlife they support in the Southeastern Coastal Plain. Our conservation efforts are dedicated to helping protect the distinctive, rural landscape of South Georgia and North Florida and its traditional land uses.

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