

A STEMulating Prospect

General Information

Project Description:

In a nutshell, we want to continue having 6,000 students experience STEM in Action and include visiting scientists at the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center, a 501(c)(3) registered as Nokuse Education, Inc., to speak about the oil spill to 10th grade teachers and help develop curriculum for the students. PAEC (Panhandle Area Education Consortium) and FEC-TV can film the presentations and together we can distribute this educational material to Gulf Coast States and schools (and even worldwide). Total cost: \$2 million/year for 5 years. For the purpose of conservation and environmental education, M.C. Dav is purchased and has set aside a 49,000 acre greenway belt/ecologically diverse wildlife corridor, making him the largest private owner of conservation lands east of the Mississippi River. The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center campus, a \$12 million (debt-free) facility, built by M.C. Davis is located between Bruce and Freeport, Florida on the 49,000 acre conservation lands named Nokuse Plantation. Today's children are key to making sure we balance the needs of our environment with the demands of our economy. The Center's educational programming expertly marries nature and technology to offer intriguing and thought-provoking personal STEM (Science, Technology , Engineering and Math) experiences that involve student interaction with the environment. As a result, students and their teachers leave the Center with a deeper appreciation of biodiversity , conservation, and preservation. Students also learn how their efforts can impact the restoration of natural resources. As we end our second year of operation, we have challenged more than 10,000 students, investing in the generation tasked with finding and developing sustainable solutions. The Center's educational curricula for 4th and 7th grade students from a catchment area of six County School Districts (Walton, Bay , Okaloosa, Washington, Holmes and Leon) in the Florida Panhandle immerses students in hands-on inquiry experiences through our 15-core environmental education programs. These programs educate students with science experiences on the importance of biodiversity , to promote sustainable balanced ecosystems, and to encourage conservation with the following hands on adventures: Exploring Longleaf pines; Learning the importance of prescribed burns; Studying the keystone species the Gopher tortoise; Learning about ants and ants-eaters; Studying the bears of Nokuse; Discovering Birds in the Longleaf Pine Forest; Identifying insect species found in bodies of water; Investigating soil studies; Analyzing the health of the various bodies of water; Learning about the importance of wetlands; Surveying plots; Taking an inventory on trees; Discovering recycling; Finding out about renewable energy resources; and How an Oil Spill effects an Ecosystem. Our partnership with the PAEC is vital to the mission of educating our leaders of today and tomorrow by providing the opportunity to take our educational programs to a global audience. This can be easily achieved with: Satellite and web-broadcasting seminars; Professional development and learning opportunities for educators; Producing, packaging and distribution educational lesson plans. Instruction based on research-evidenced, best practices, Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards are adaptable to all countries and every state in the United States standards for teachers, leaders, communities and students. Plans are in place to involve 10th graders and purposefully engage students from groups, typically under-represented in STEM careers (e.g., girls, minorities and low income students through a collaboration with Girls, Inc. of America and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America), in the Center's educational programming. "In the end we will conserve what we love, we will love what we understand, and we will only understand what we are taught." - Baba Dioum

Activity(s):

- Education
- Land Acquisition
- Maintenance/Management
- Restoration
- Protection

Habitat(s):

- Riverine
- Upland
- Freshwater Wetlands

Resource Benefits(s):

- Reptiles/Amphibians
- Terrestrial Wildlife
- Sediment
- Vegetation
- Human Use (Recreational, Cultural)
- Birds
- Fish
- Shellfish

Evaluation & Categorization

Edit

Not yet evaluated

Geographic Information

State: FL

County/Parish: Walton

Watershed/Basin:

Affected Area (acres): 49000

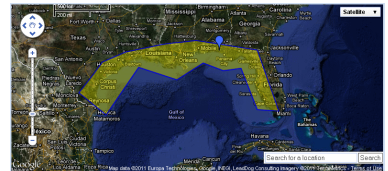
Location Overview

(lat: 30.475348, long: -86.069641)



Detail Map

(size: 119013427.49 Acre(s).)



Status

Property/Resource Acquisition:

Project Planning/Design:

Project Permitting:

Time to Implementation:

Time to Project Completion:

Included in Regional Plan? No

Cost

Estimated Cost: US\$10,000,000.00

Funding Available: US\$785,250.00

Organization: E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center (501c3 registered as Nokuse Educaiton, Inc)

Weblink: www.eowilsoncenter.org

Contact: , email@email.com

Address:

Project Partners

Partner Organization	Partner Contact	Partner Involvement
Washington County School District	Dr. Sandra Cook	Provide students for educational opportunities and filming
Walton County School District	Superintendent Carlene Anderson	Provide students for educational opportunities and filming
Dugas Family Foundation	Steve Dugas	Sponsor of 3 core programs
Girls Inc.	Tammy Dunaway	Provide underserved students
Boys and Girls Club of Bay County	Paul Mosca	Provide underserved students
PAEC	Rick Everitt	Filing and distribution of educational material
Bay County School District	Superintendent Bill Hufstelt	Provide students for educational opportunities and filming
South Walton Tourist Development Council	Dawn Molinerno	Open to the Public Funding
Nokuse Plantation	Dr. Matt Aresco	Land manager of 49,000 acres of conservation lands
FSU STEM	Ginger Littleton	Curriculum Consultant