

# Northwest Florida

## Water Management District

The Apalachicola River is formed by the convergence at the Florida border of the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers, which originate in Northern Georgia. Approximately three-fourths of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin is in Georgia and Alabama. The Apalachicola flows south 107 miles from the Jim Woodruff Dam to Apalachicola Bay. It has the largest flow of any river in Florida — an average discharge of more than 25,000 cubic feet a second.

The Apalachicola River was described in glowing terms to the 1825 Florida Legislative Council, meeting for the first time in Tallahassee. Governor William P. Duval compared the lands around the river with the Mississippi River floodplain and insisted to council members that the climate was even better for production of sugar cane and cotton. "The bold and navigable rivers which run through our territory will be of more value than mines of gold," he exclaimed.<sup>1</sup>



The varied bottomland hardwood habitats in the floodplain of the Apalachicola River are known to be immensely important as sources of nutrients for the highly productive Apalachicola Bay. The *Save Our Rivers* purchase of over 35,000 acres, in conjunction with the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, provides an unusual amount of protection to this great resource. Georgia, Alabama, and Florida are working with the Corps of Engineers and navigation interests to develop a navigation plan for the river that will protect its environmental integrity.

Four of Florida's five largest rivers originate out of state, and three of the four are in the Northwest Florida Water Management District: the Escambia, the Choctawhatchee, and the Apalachicola. Only the Apalachicola is a part of an organized *interstate* river management program. Each of the three rivers has had *Save Our Rivers* purchases in its floodplain.

### Save Our Rivers Purchases

Acres Purchased: 91,593

Cost: \$28,005,030 (including bonds)

### Selected Parcels

Wakulla Springs: 2,888 acres

Escambia River floodplain: 17,998 acres

Choctawhatchee River floodplain: 35,198 acres

Apalachicola River floodplain: 35,509 acres