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GULF COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT PRE-PROPOSAL FORM

Project Name: Reconstruction of Fort Place (Last fort in Gulf County)

Submitting Entity: Tommie C. Godwin

I. Please select one or more eligible activity that the project is classified under:

- Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources.
- Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
- Workforce development and job creation.
- Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
- Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.
- Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.
- Planning assistance.
- Promotion of tourism and seafood in the Gulf Coast region.

ii. Please provide an executive summary of the project. Describe/quantify the economic (jobs, infrastructure, tourism, etc.) and environmental benefits (habitat, quality, knowledge, long-term sustainability, etc.).

II.

Fort Place was built in the 1830's as a direct result of hostile Native Americans moving into North Florida from Alabama. Fort Place was built in Honeyville. There is a historical marker on Highway 71 marking the location. The Richards family, one of Florida's first pioneer families and interpreters for Andrew Jackson, built Fort Place. The fort consisted of a two acre palisade with a two story log fort in the middle. The fort measured 18'X32'. One of the fort builders was killed during an Indian attack on the fort in 1838. T.C. Richards was the last known victim of the 2nd Seminole war in Gulf County. His son survived the attack and made his home in the fort until the 1890's. The fort was in continued use until 1936 when it burned to the ground. The soil the fort stood on was dug up and used as fill dirt.

Fort Place will be constructed on 100 acres in Honeyville. Two acres will be dedicated to the fort and palisade construction. 98 acres will be planted in plants and trees that grew in Honeyville in the 1830's. The area will be complete with walking paths, information points, and birdhouses to encourage the return of blue birds. Small shallow ponds will give home to the fly trap plants, insects and animal life. The endangered wild honeysuckle (Azalea) will be cultivated. A professional botanist will be a paid consultant.

A man-made hill will be constructed. On the hill, seats of 8'X8' will be laid to provide a view of the fort. The hill will be covered in grass and spaced trees for shade. During the peak tourist season there will be a reenactment of the last Indian attack in Gulf County. The shows will take place on Friday night, Saturday evening, and Sunday evening. An admission of \$4.00 per person will be charged. After the show, the guests will be given the chance to "defend" the fort. A local restaurant will provide a frontier menu of seafood special on the days of the reenactment.

The fort will be open daily to the public. A person well versed in Gulf County history will escort the guests. These will be part time employees and will carry the title Fort Place Historians. Admission at this time will be by donation.

Yesteryear tourist sped down highway 71, heading to the unspoiled, beautiful beaches of Gulf County. Many of them stopped in Wewahitchka for groceries, gas, food and drinks. Business had been on a decline in Wewa, but as 2009 there was a light at the end of the tunnel. The Deep Water Horizon oil spill in 2010 extinguished that light. The tourists were no longer heading south, stores lost up to 40% of their sales. Restaurants moved, downsized, laid off staff, and one closed. Those on the bottom of the wage ladder were shoved off. These workers made minimum wages, worked part time, or depended on tips. They were trashed thrown over the economical cliff.

Today, tourism drives Gulf County's economy. I regret to say this is not true in the north end of the county. We are the step children of opportunity, but it is our choice, our chosen destiny. We cannot compete with the most beautiful beaches on planet Earth. We can, however, develop ecotourism, highlight our history, save some native wildlife, provide homes for endangered bluebirds, while honoring our history and those that made it.

Fort Place has the potential to provide county visitors with an evening away from the beaches and a trip into a historical event, all while being highly

entertained. By allowing the children an opportunity to defend or attack the fort, the worst that could happen is a good time.

Fort Place will be a unique experience that is not offered anywhere else in the tri-state region. It will encourage visitors to return and new ones to visit. It is projected that during the first two years there will be five part time positions. With growth, full time positions will develop.

Project	Cost	Timing
Secure 100 acres in Honeyville	\$1,000,000.00	May-June 2013
Logs for fort	\$49,500.00	May 2013
Logs for palisade	\$22,000.00	May 2013
Land clearing	\$25,000.00	May-June 2013
Dirt hauled in	\$30,000.00	July 2013
Transport expense for logs	\$17,250.00	August 2013
Secure laborers	\$92,000.00	May 2013
Dirt for amphitheatre	\$30,000.00	July 2013
Architect fees	\$7,500.00	May 2013
8'X8'X16' amphitheatre seating	\$3,700.00	May 2013
Botanist consultant	\$8,320.00	May 2013
Concrete foundation 18 yards	\$2100.00	June 2013
Consulting and construction supervisor	\$54,400.00	May-Sept 2013
Supplies: Replica of period weapons, lamps, hats, etc.	\$14,000.00	June 2013
Shingles	\$6,000.00	October 2013

Build fort and palisade	inclusive	June-Nov 2013
Landscape	\$5,000.00	September 2013
Order supplies	\$15,000.00	October 2013
Marketing expenses	\$10,000.00	September 2013

Total estimated cost: \$1,391,770.00

V.

Mr. Willard Smith, whom restored the buildings at the Panhandle Frontier Settlement in Calhoun County, will bring his 27 years experience to the project as consultant manager. Larry Mathis, retired Wewehitchka High School Principal and math teacher, will be in charge of finances. Tommie Godwin, retired Air Force and Chief Investigator for Gulf County Sherriff's Office, brings his experiences as a military instructor and military contract monitor.

Curtailling maintenance cost by using prisoner help will enhance the sustainability of the Fort Place project. Volunteers will be the backbone of the ongoing project. A course will be developed to teach local history to high school students that wish to volunteer as historians. Fundraising will be a critical part of the overall operating cost. As with any new business, advertising will be a major factor. It is anticipated, that for two years from opening day, that operating funds will be needed.

VI.

No information has been provided that the Fort Place Project is included in anyone's comprehensive and mitigation plan. Five part time jobs will be generated during the first year of operation. When funds are generated to support full time employees, positions will be added. We anticipate school age children being brought into the county to visit Fort Place. Fort Place will provide a visitor destination for the north end of the county, providing revenue for local businesses.

Submitted By:

Tommie Godwin
Signature

1/15/13
Date

Company Name

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
RESTORE ACT COMMITTEE (R.A.C.)

1000 CECIL G. COSTIN SR. BLVD., ROOM 312, PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA 32456
PHONE (850)229-6144 • FAX (850) 229-9252 • EMAIL: tkopinsky@gulfcounty-fl.gov

**PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY AND PUBLIC ACCESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR
GULF COUNTY RESTORE ACT APPLICANTS**

I, Tommie C. Godwin the undersigned authority and/or representative of the entity Tommie C. Godwin and or the individual who has submitted the Gulf County RESTORE Act Proposal/Pre-Proposal titled RECONSTRUCTION OF LANT PLACI hereby acknowledge, consent and accept the following representations that coincide with my/our submission for consideration, evaluation and possible recommendation and approval by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners for funding from the RESTORE Act distribution that strictly complies with the guidelines and regulations set forth under the Restoration and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012:

1. I/We am the authorized representative of the application/pre-proposal referenced above.
2. I/We have thoroughly reviewed and familiarized myself and/or my entity on which I have submitted the application/pre-proposal on behalf of with the entirety of the Gulf County Public Records policy.
3. I/We have thoroughly reviewed and familiarized myself and/or my entity on which I have submitted the application/pre-proposal on behalf of with the entirety of the Florida Statute Chapter 119 which controls and permits public access to information.
4. I/We hereby acknowledge, consent and agree to the controlling policies and statutes above as well as the free and open exchange of any and all submissions provided hereunder this application/pre-proposal and all information exchanged hereafter including but not limited to further amendments to these proposals as well as surveys, studies, research, data production, books, drawings, property records, work papers, county owner lists, files, forms, reports, accounts, documents, manuals, handbooks, instructions, printouts relating in any manner for the production of the application. In addition, all papers, notes, data, reference material, documentation, programs, printouts, and all other media and forms of expression that in any way include, incorporate or reflect any confidential information of what ultimately shall become the Gulf County plans for use and application of the RESTORE Act funding.
5. I/We acknowledge, agree and fully consent to cooperate with the appointed Gulf County RESTORE ACT committee, county officials and staff as a continuing obligation and condition of final review for this RESTORE Act application/pre-proposal.
6. I/We have submitted this acknowledgment to Gulf County RESTORE Act Committee and the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners for the purpose and intent of receiving an evaluation, review and possible recommendations for anticipated funding from the Restoration and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012.

Tommie Godwin
Signature of RESTORE Act Applicant

Date: 01/16/13

Tommie Godwin
Printed Name