

**Chapter 6**  
**CONSERVATION ELEMENT**

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| <b>GOAL 1:</b>        | Protect, manage, and conserve the natural resources of Gulf County to ensure their continued best use for the current and future citizens of the County.  |
| <b>OBJECTIVE 1.1:</b> | Gulf County will work to maintain air quality within its jurisdiction in conformance with State and Federal Air Quality guidelines by implementing Policy 1.1.1.  |
| <b>POLICY 1.1.1:</b>  | New developments with the potential to emit pollutants into the air will be required to obtain the necessary permits from the Department of Environmental Regulation prior to authorization of a development permit by Gulf County.   |
| <b>OBJECTIVE 1.2:</b> | Gulf County will strive to conserve, appropriately use, and protect the quality and quantity of current and projected water sources and waters that flow into estuarine waters or oceanic waters by implementing Policies 1.2.1 through 1.2.4.  |
| <b>POLICY 1.2.1:</b>  | Gulf County will adopt as part of its Land Development Regulations, criteria for the location of those land uses with the potential to adversely affect the quality and quantity of identified water sources including existing cones of influence, water recharge areas, and waterwells.   |
| <b>POLICY 1.2.2:</b>  | New developments with the potential to impact the quantity and/or quality of natural resources will be required to obtain the necessary permits from the Department of Environmental Regulation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Natural Resources, and/or the Northwest Florida Water Management District prior to authorization of a development permit by Gulf County. |

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| <b><u>POLICY 1.2.3:</u></b> | <u>Gulf County will enforce a 600 foot buffer along the Fresh water Canal to protect it as a surface water resource for potable water as identified in the 2007 Region V Regional Water Supply Plan and to meet the projected water supply demand through 2020. Existing parcels that can not support the 600' buffer will be permitted with a reduced buffer.</u> |
| <b>POLICY 1.2.4:</b>        | Activities that would withdraw groundwater to the point of saltwater intrusion, or would damage sensitive ecosystems, agriculture, or area geology, shall be prohibited in Gulf County <u>as referenced in the 2007 Region V Regional Water Supply Plan.</u>   |
| <b><u>POLICY 1.2.5:</u></b> | <u>To advance the water protection objectives of the NFWMD Region V Water Supply Plan, Gulf County will add water supply maps to the Comprehensive Plan map series that supports water supply planning by projecting the Areas of Special Concern (ASC), water permit areas, and water supply service area.</u>  |
| <b><u>POLICY 1.2.6:</u></b> | <u>To comply with the NFWMD and Florida Statutes Chapter 373.185 requirements, the County will adopt a Xeriscape/Friendly Landscape Ordinance by July 30, 2009 for unincorporated areas served by the City of Port St. Joe.</u>  |
| <b>OBJECTIVE 1.3:</b>       | Gulf County will conserve, appropriately use, and protect it's natural resources, including fisheries, wildlife, wildlife habitat, marine habitat, minerals, soils, and native vegetative communities by implementing Policies 1.3.1 through 1.3.11.   |
| <b>POLICY 1.3.1:</b>        | Gulf County Land Development Regulations will identify measures to be taken to protect native vegetative communities from destruction by development activities. These regulations will specifically address the protection of native vegetation in erosion sensitive locations in the coastal area.   |
| <b>POLICY 1.3.2:</b>        | Gulf County will assist in the application of and compliance with all State and Federal regulations which pertain to endangered and rare species and will consider the need for integrity of areas known to provide habitats for these species when issuing development permits.   |

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| <b>POLICY 1.3.3:</b> | Through the implementation of Land Development Regulations and the required compliance with Federal, State and Regional regulatory programs, Gulf County will ensure that the natural functions of the County's natural resources are not degraded.  |
| <b>POLICY 1.3.4:</b> | Gulf County will cooperate with the Department of Natural Resources, the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, and the Northwest Florida Water Management District to provide the fullest protection to County, State, and Federally-owned areas identified in the conservation and recreation elements, that have been set aside for the protection of natural resources and public recreation.  |
| <b>POLICY 1.3.5:</b> | Gulf County will cooperate with the officials of Bay, Calhoun, Liberty, and Franklin Counties to conserve, appropriately use, or protect unique vegetative communities located within more than one jurisdiction.  |
| <b>POLICY 1.3.6:</b> | Gulf County will maintain an Environmentally Sensitive Lands Map Inventory to include land areas identified as wetlands on the U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Maps, National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission data to identify potential habitat areas. Gulf County will provide a map or map series that identify land areas that are in the flood zones A and V according to the <del>November 7, 2002</del> <u>September 28, 2007</u> FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM).  |
| <b>POLICY 1.3.7:</b> | Gulf County Land Development Regulations will include specific requirements for the protection for environmentally sensitive lands such as those principles outlined for wetlands protection in Future Land Use Policy 1.1.10.   |
| <b>POLICY 1.3.8:</b> | Conventional septic tank systems shall be prohibited within 150 feet from coastal waters and wetlands (including saltmarsh areas) within the Bayside area depicted on the revised Future Land Use Map, and shall be prohibited within 75 feet of coastal waters and wetlands (including saltmarsh areas) within the Gulfside area depicted on the revised Future Land Use Map. Lots or parcels of record which existed prior to January 14, 1992, which cannot be developed without placement of the septic tank within the 150 setback, may be exempted from the 150 foot setback requirement, but the septic tank shall be |

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|                       | placed as far landward as possible.  |
| <b>POLICY 1.3.9:</b>  | Prior to beginning mine operations, all mine operators will submit a plan to the County identifying measures to protect natural resources, plans for mine reclamation, and compatibility with adjacent land uses.                                      |
| <b>POLICY 1.3.11:</b> | Gulf County will seek grants and other sources of funding to acquire and manage lands to ensure public access to beaches, open space and other natural areas and to mitigate potential hazards.  |
| <b>OBJECTIVE 1.4:</b> | Gulf County will seek to protect natural resources from the effects of hazardous waste by implementing Policies 1.4.1 through 1.4.5.   |
| <b>POLICY 1.4.1:</b>  | Gulf County will continue to implement a public awareness program to inform citizens of the recycling alternatives for hazardous waste.  |
| <b>POLICY 1.4.2:</b>  | Gulf County will identify financing and operations alternatives for construction of a temporary storage/transfer facility for small quantities of hazardous wastes as recommended in the 1986 Gulf County Hazardous Waste Management Assessment.       |
| <b>POLICY 1.4.3:</b>  | Where contamination of natural resources by hazardous wastes has occurred, the party responsible for the contamination will be required to monitor and restore the contaminated area.  |
| <b>POLICY 1.4.4:</b>  | Gulf County will manage hazardous waste in accordance with County Ordinance 80-1.  |
| <b>POLICY 1.4.5:</b>  | Gulf County Emergency Management Office will, with the aid of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council and Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), establish a system for identifying the location, type, and quantity of hazardous waste materials. |