





# RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

## Department of the Treasury

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

**Directions: Use this form for the Initial Multiyear Plan and any subsequent amendments to an accepted Multiyear Plan. For amendments, include only new and/or materially modified activities.**

Multiyear Plan Version (Initial or Amendment Number):	Initial
Date of Initial Multiyear Plan Acceptance:	n/a
Date of Last Multiyear Plan Acceptance:	n/a

Eligible Applicant Name:	Jefferson County Florida, Board of County Commissioners
Name and Contact Information of the Person to be contacted (POC) on matters concerning this Multiyear Implementation Plan:	
POC Name:	Betsy Barfield
POC Title:	County Commissioner
POC Email:	bbarfield@jeffersoncountyfl.gov
POC Phone:	850-933-4055

### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

1. A description of each activity, including the need, purpose, objective(s), milestones and location. Include map showing the location of each activity.

It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners and staff of Jefferson County, Florida to implement three (3) projects in the direct coastal areas of the Gulf of Mexico within the jurisdictional borders Jefferson County. These projects will provide benefits related to infrastructure, planning and restoration and protection of natural resources. The projects will be performed beginning in May 2020 and running through May 2022. These three (3) projects which will impact all over Jefferson County are described below.

#### **Project 1: Access to Broadband**

**Need:** Jefferson County has fiber optic networks in place that lack infrastructure components such as end point connections. To support a diverse and sustainable economy, Jefferson County needs improvements to the existing fiber optic infrastructure network. Four neighborhoods with unmet needs have been identified: Lloyd, Lamont, Sanctuary, and U.S. 90. Jefferson County schools have struggled and were taken over by the State of Florida in 2017. Twenty percent of Jefferson County's students are homeschooled and need access to high speed internet for educational opportunities. Jefferson County serves as a bedroom community for Tallahassee, the state capitol and home to two universities and many residents work from home which requires high speed internet.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to identify the needs and implement solutions to improve fiber optic infrastructure in rural Jefferson County. This proposed project will expand Jefferson County's position as a location for business and distance workers, as well as create new educational opportunities for Jefferson County students.

**Milestones:** 1. Prepare scope of services. 2. Complete project design and secure required permits. 3. Prepare bid package meeting U.S. Treasury specifications and solicit bids. 4. Select contractor and award Contract Agreement. 5. Performance of expansion of broadband service construction contract 6. File periodic project status reports to Grantor. 7. Complete project closeout and file report with Treasury.

**Location:** Underserved areas of Jefferson County. Please see map for Project 1.

## **Project 2: Planning Eco-tourism attraction**

**Need:** Jefferson County contains some of Florida's oldest dated evidence of human activity. The nationally recognized Page-Ladson archeological site, located in Jefferson County, is actively being excavated by archeologists and recent findings at the site are changing the understanding of when humans first arrived in Florida. Archeological discoveries include mastodons and signs of human habitation prior to 14,500 years ago. A complete Mastodon skeleton from the Page-Ladson Tract resides at the Florida Museum of Natural History and there is excellent potential for future archeological discoveries at the tract. Despite being the location of significant natural history and archaeological finds, Jefferson County lacks diverse tourism opportunities. Jefferson County needs accessible family-related tourism opportunities that offer educational and recreational experiences. Planning a local exhibit space to serve as a home for information about the archeological significance of the area would build Jefferson County's eco-tourist market.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to create a centralized eco-tourism attraction at the Historic Monticello High School currently under renovation, that will result in an extensive visitor experience understanding the natural history of the area and providing information on additional tourism opportunities in Jefferson County. Historic Monticello High School is owned by Jefferson County. The building is currently vacant but will house this exhibit as well as governmental offices when completed.

**Milestones:** 1. Prepare scope of services. 2. Complete project design and secure required permits. 3. Prepare bid package meeting U.S. Treasury specifications and solicit bids. 4. Select contractor and award Contract Agreement. 5. Performance of exhibit planning contract. 6. File periodic project status reports to Grantor. 7. Complete project closeout and file report with Treasury.

**Location:** At Historic "A" Building in Jefferson County. Please see map for Project 2.

## **Project 3: Bathymetric LIDAR mapping of Jefferson County Offshore Waters**

**Need:** Despite the rich environmental and historical significance of Jefferson County's six-mile shoreline along the Gulf of Mexico, they have never been mapped in detail. Existing hydrographic charts of the area are based on widely-spaced sounding lines and do not purport to locate small features. Further, the shallow depths of this area restrict future mapping in greater detail by conventional hydrographic methods. As a result, there is an acute need for high resolution base maps to support water quality, water supply, habitat, wildlife, climate change and archaeological research.

**Purpose:** Map the underwater terrain bordering the paleo channel of the Aucilla River in near-shore Gulf of Mexico waters in Jefferson County, Florida using green lasers. These waters are rich in natural and cultural resources including bars and reefs that serves as habitat for a wide variety of aquatic life. In addition, there are freshwater springs, where the waters of the Floridan Aquifer bubble up below the water surface and attract biological life. Further, the drowned channels of the Aucilla and St. Marks Rivers, which run through this offshore area, contain some of Florida's oldest dated evidence of human activity.

**Milestones:** 1. Prepare scope of services. 2. Complete project design and secure required permits. 3. Prepare bid package meeting U.S. Treasury specifications and solicit bids. 4. Select contractor and award Contract Agreement. 5. Performance of LIDAR mapping contract. 6. File periodic project status reports to Grantor. 7. Complete project closeout and file report with Treasury.

**Location:** Gulf of Mexico coastline of Jefferson County. Please see map for Project 3.

2. How the applicant made the multiyear plan available for 45 days for public review and comment, in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations, such as through public meetings, presentations in languages other than English, and postings on the Internet. The applicant will need to submit documentation (e.g., a copy of public notices) to demonstrate that it made its multiyear plan available to the public for at least 45 days. In addition, describe how each activity in the multiyear plan was approved after consideration of all meaningful input from the public and submit documentation (e.g., a letter from the applicant's leadership approving submission of the multiyear plan to Treasury or a resolution approving the applicant's multiyear plan).

The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners reviewed and approved the Draft Multiyear Implementation Plan at their regularly scheduled meeting of November 15, 2018. Public Comments were allowed and is common practice at

all County Commission Meetings. At that point Jefferson County began the solicitation process for public input and comments on the Draft Multiyear Implementation Plan.

The document was made available to the public for review and comment from November 19, 2018 until January 7, 2019 (a 45-day period).

The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners published NOTICE that the Draft MYIP was available for the Public's review and comment during the 45-day period at the following locations:

- The offices of the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners at 450 Walnut Street, Monticello, Florida 32344, from Monday to Friday during normal business hours.
- The Jefferson County R.J. Bailar Public Library, 375 South Water Street, Monticello, Florida 32344. Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Jefferson County Website @jeffersoncountyflgov.com

There were no comments received during the 45-day public comment period. During this period the County adjusted the start date and final budget of Project One based on comments from the broadband provider. Because there were no substantive changes to the MYIP no formal Board of County Commission action is required further.

3. How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan narrative meets all the requirements under the RESTORE Act, including a description of how each activity is eligible for funding based on the geographic location of each activity and how each activity qualifies for at least one of the eligible activities under the RESTORE Act.

#### **Project 1: Access to Broadband**

**Primary Eligible Activity:** Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure. Access to high speed broadband internet service will allow business to locate in Jefferson County and existing businesses to grow therefore benefitting the economy. This service will also allow for additional education opportunities that will grow Jefferson County's workforce's skills.

**Geographic requirement:** Located in various developed areas in the northern region of Jefferson County. Please see map for Project 1.

#### **Project 2: Planning Eco-tourism attraction**

**Primary Eligible Activity:** Planning activities. These activities will support the development of exhibit design and a cost estimate for construction of an exhibit space that will increase tourist development.

**Geographic requirement:** Proposed to be located at the Historic Monticello High School (also known as the Jefferson Academy and Jefferson County High School). It is located at 425 West Washington Street. On March 25, 1999, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Please see map for Project 2.

#### **Project 3: Bathymetric LIDAR mapping of Jefferson County Offshore Waters**

**Primary Eligible Activity:** Planning activities. These activities will provide baseline data to be used for future research regarding water quality, water supply, habitat, wildlife, climate change and archaeological studies.

**Geographic requirement:** Located bordering the paleo channel of the Aucilla River in the nearshore waters of the Gulf of Mexico in Jefferson County to the three-league limit. Please see map for Project 3.

4. Criteria the applicant will use to evaluate the success of the activities included in the multiyear plan narrative in helping to restore and protect the Gulf Coast Region impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

#### **Project 1: Access to Broadband**

Project success will be measured by:

- Identify the needs to improve fiber optic infrastructure.
- Construct applicable infrastructure solutions to fill the identified needs to better serve businesses and students

**Project 2: Planning Eco-tourism attraction**

Project success will be measured by:

- Planning and completion of exhibit design
- Development of a cost estimate for exhibit construction

**Project 3: Bathymetric LIDAR mapping of Jefferson County Offshore Waters**

Project success will be measured by:

- Mapping flight completed
- Data processing completed
- High-resolution digital model of submerged terrain bordering the paleo channel of the Aucilla River from shoreline to three league limits

**5. How the activities included in the multiyear plan narrative were prioritized and list the criteria used to establish the priorities.**

The specific ranking in order of priority of the three (3) projects which are being proposed are based on historical data of need and utilization by all parts of the economy and citizens. The projected dates for implementation are based on project readiness and the availability of Direct Component Funds.

**Project 1: Access to Broadband**

The accumulation of \$1,325, 988.47 in estimated gross allocations to Jefferson County by April 2020, and additional funding expected due to interest, it was prudent to pursue this project first. With annual allocations of about \$200,000 it would take 6 years to accumulate enough to accomplish this project if it were not prioritized first.

**Project 2: Planning Eco-tourism attraction**

The building in which this exhibit will reside has been the subject of ongoing renovation. This project was prioritized second to make sure any structural or electrical needs of the exhibit are included in these plans.

**Project 3: Bathymetric LIDAR mapping of Jefferson County Offshore Waters**

This new technology is currently being piloted for this project, so this activity is being planned for year three in order for that project to be completed and best practices to be compiled.

**6. If applicable, describe the amount and current status of funding from other sources (e.g., other RESTORE Act contribution, other third party contribution) and provide a description of the specific portion of the project to be funded by the RESTORE Act Direct Component.**

**Project 1: Access to Broadband**

This project is anticipated to cost \$1,243,000. Additional funding may come from broadband providers.

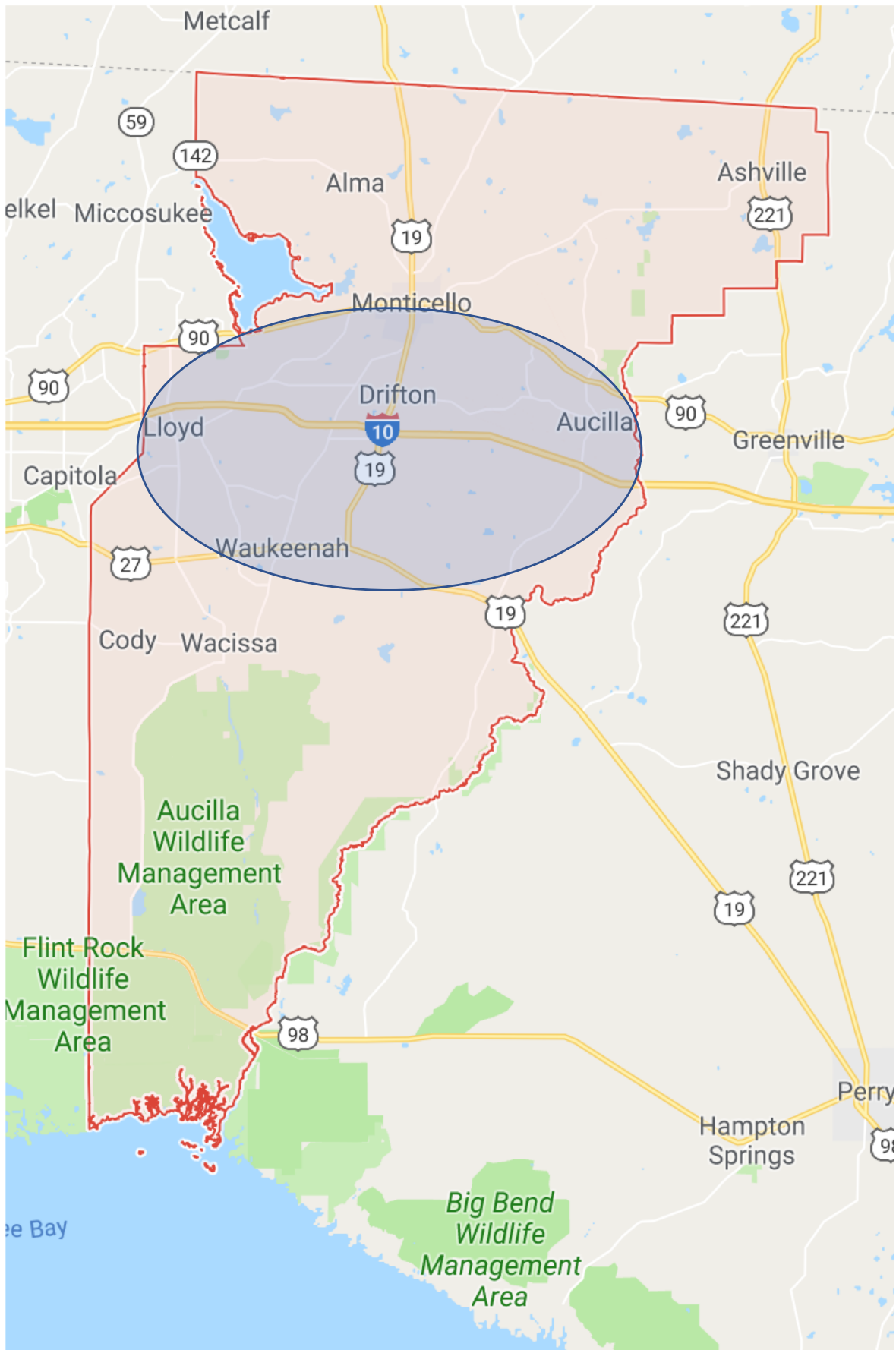
**Project 2: Planning Eco-tourism attraction**


This project is anticipated to cost \$56,500. Project implementation funds will come from a range of sources including state grants.

**Project 3: Bathymetric LIDAR mapping of Jefferson County Offshore Waters**

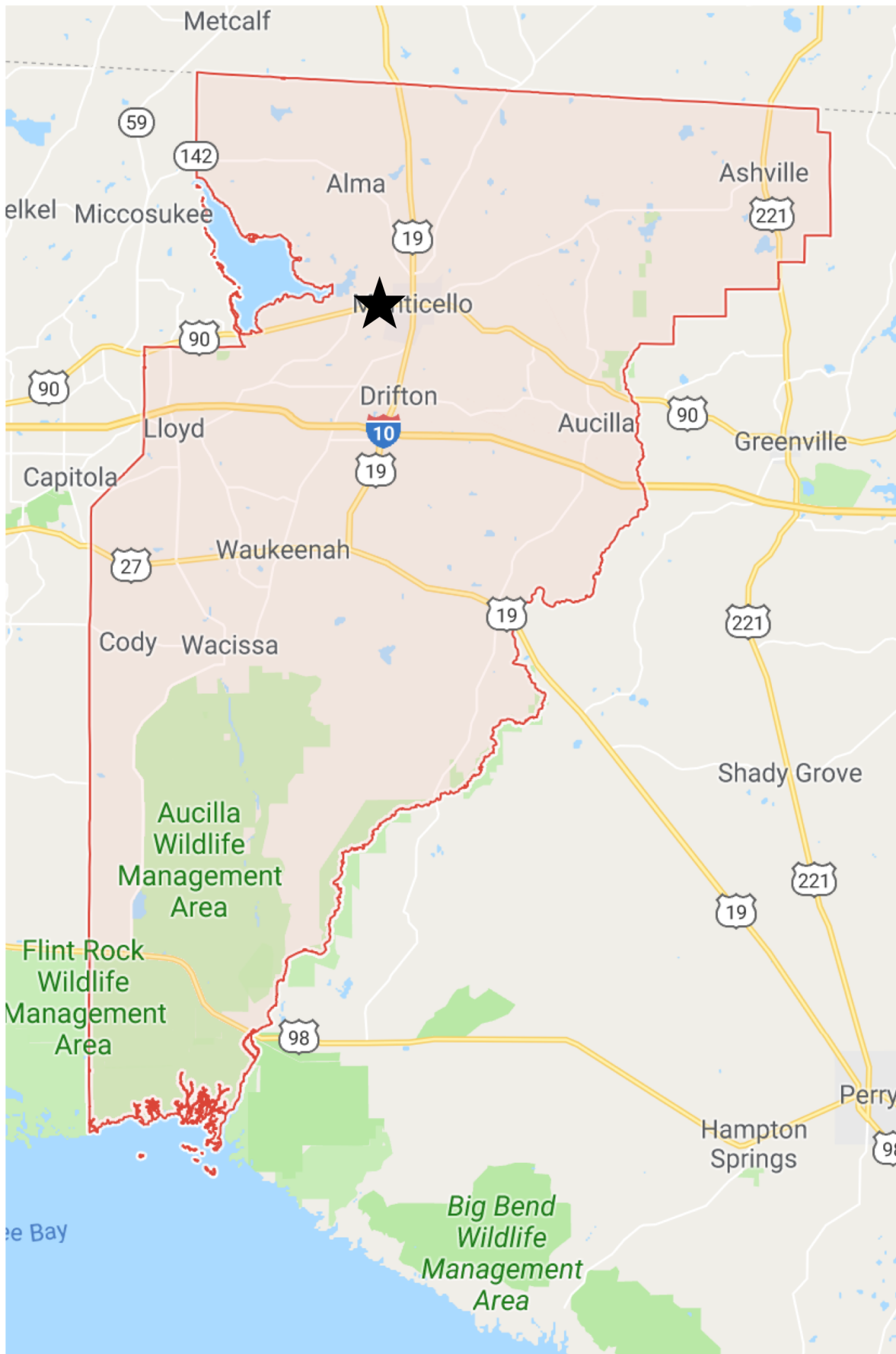
This project is anticipated to cost \$224,242.

## Location Map – Jefferson County, Florida



 Project 1 – Access to Broadband

## Location Map – Jefferson County, Florida



Location of Project 2 – Historic “A” Building  
425 West Washington Street, Monticello, FL



AUCILLA RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
Location Map - Jefferson County, Florida

