FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Saturday, August 3, 2013

PANHANDLE COUNTIES RECEIVE FEDERAL DISASTER DECLARATION FOR JULY FLOODS

Tallahassee – Governor Rick Scott announced Friday, August 2, that the State of Florida received a Presidential Disaster Declaration to assist Panhandle Counties affected by severe storms and flooding over the July 4 holiday week. Holmes, Walton and Washington Counties have been declared for Public Assistance.

“Helping communities return to normal after a disaster is our first priority and this assistance is an important first step in that process,” said Florida Division of Emergency Management Director Bryan W. Koon.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Public Assistance program provides grant assistance for debris removal and emergency protective measures. Costs for repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly-owned facilities can also be covered under Public Assistance.

Counties across the Panhandle felt significant impacts to homes, roadways, and infrastructure due to the rainfall received. Areas of the Florida Panhandle received over twelve inches of rain between July 2-7. Walton and Washington Counties received nearly 20 inches of rain. Rivers in the Florida Panhandle reached flood stage, including the Choctawhatchee River in Walton County, which reached major flood stage. The estimated damage across the three counties totals $28,688,235.40.

For more information about emergency response in Florida, the 2013 Hurricane Season, and how you can Get A Plan! visit FloridaDisaster.org. Follow FDEM on Twitter at @FLSERT, on Facebook at Facebook.com/FloridaSERT and Facebook.com/KidsGetAPlan.

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