

# Osprey Restoration in Coastal Alabama

## Phase IV Early Restoration Project

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

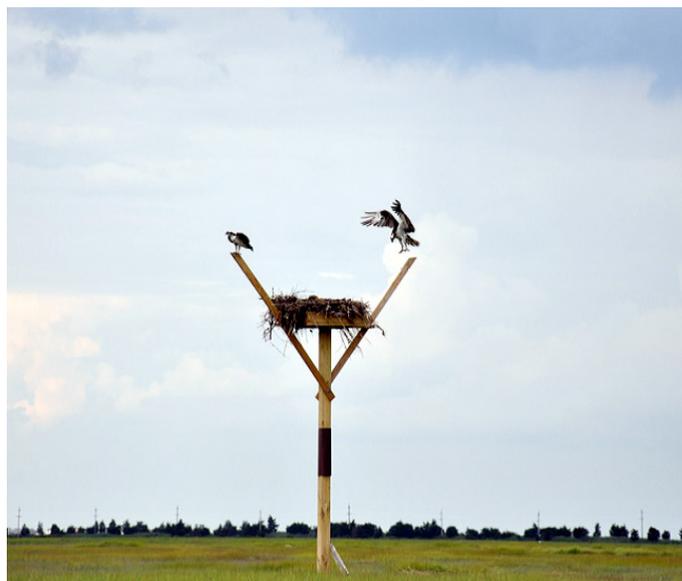
The Osprey Restoration in Coastal Alabama project will establish five nesting platforms along the coast in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama to provide enhanced nesting opportunities for fish-eating raptors, including osprey. The nesting sites will be located in the vicinities of Portersville Bay, Dauphin Island, Fort Morgan, Little Lagoon in Gulf Shores, and in Gulf State Park.

Osprey are found in coastal Alabama year-round. Osprey require nest sites in open surroundings for easy approach, with wide, sturdy bases and safety from ground predators. Nests are usually built on snags, treetops, at the junction of large branches and trunks, on cliffs, or human-built platforms. Osprey readily build their nests on manmade structures in suitable habitat areas, such as telephone poles, channel markers, duck blinds, and nest platforms designed especially for it. In some areas, osprey place their nests almost exclusively on artificial structures.

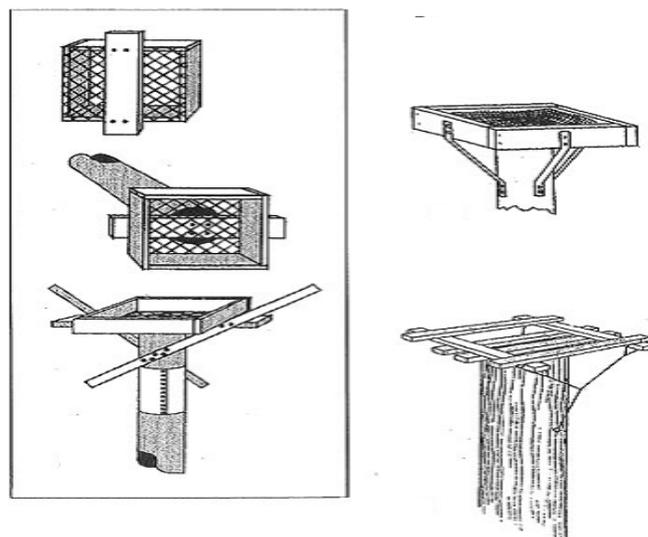
A typical design for these types of structures is a 3 foot by 3 foot nesting platform atop a pole approximately 10 to 20 feet high. Typically, poles are placed 3 to 6 feet deep into the ground. Sheet metal is attached approximately 3 to 6 feet above the ground to prevent predators, such as racoons, from accessing the nests.

As natural nesting sites, such as tree snags, are removed along developed coastlines, nesting platforms such as the structures in this project provide important alternative nesting opportunities.

ESTIMATED COST: \$45,000



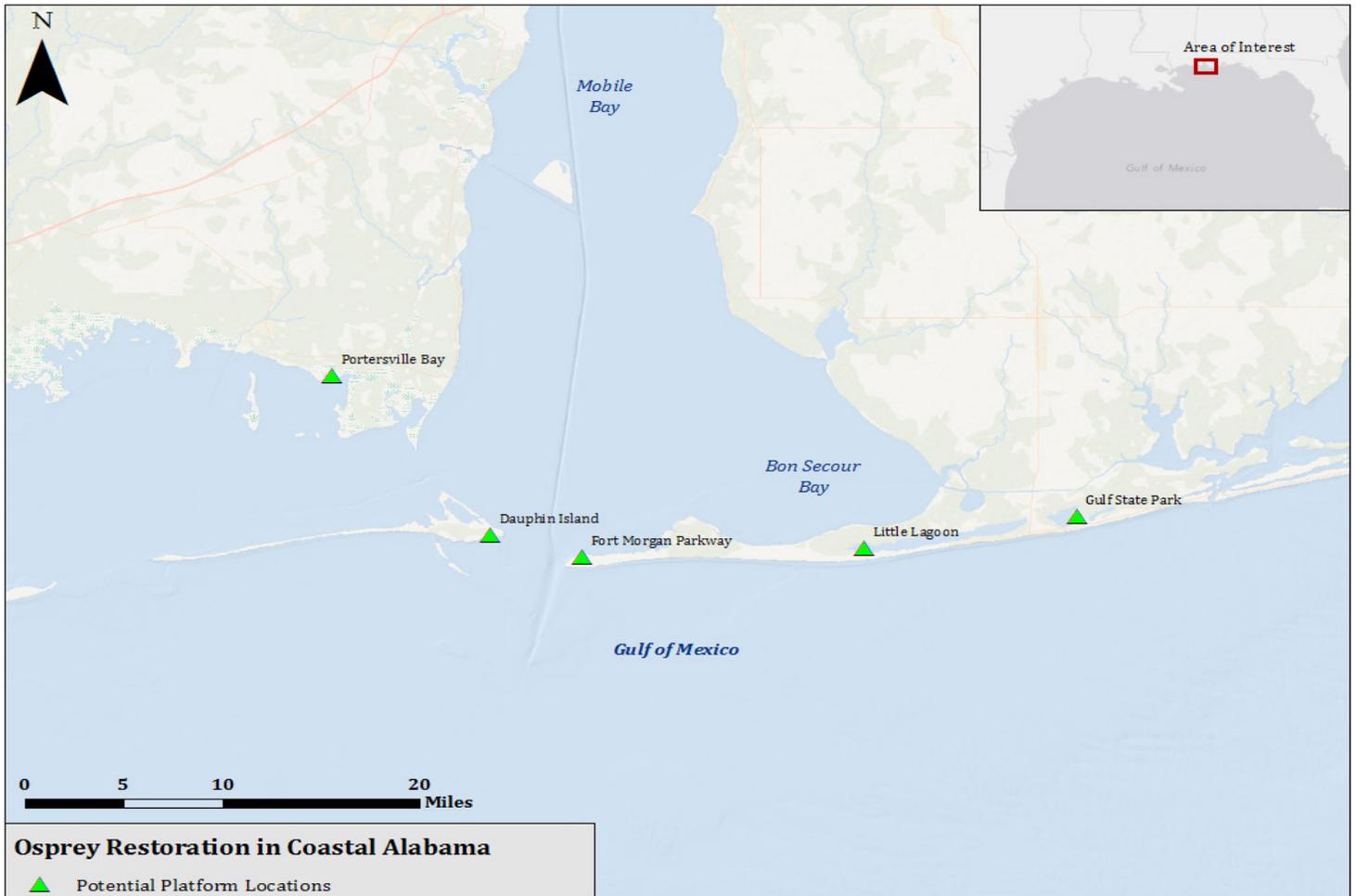
A typical osprey nesting platform.



A typical nesting platform design.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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General locations for osprey nesting platforms in coastal Alabama.

