

Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #2: Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities

Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group



PLAN DESCRIPTION

The Draft Recreational Use Plan proposes projects to compensate for a portion of the lost recreational use in Louisiana caused by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. Included are project alternatives evaluated by the Louisiana Trustees emphasizing the creation and enhancement of:

- Recreational fishing infrastructure.
- Recreational fishing access or opportunity.
- Educational and outreach components promoting utilization of natural resources and encouraging stewardship for them.

ESTIMATED COSTS

This Draft Recreational Use Plan proposes reallocating \$22 million previously approved for an Early Restoration project that was unable to be implemented as planned. More detailed information about project alternatives and costs is below.

WHAT WE DO

Restoration work in the Louisiana Restoration Area will focus on restoring wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats, including habitats on federally managed lands; restoring water quality and habitat; replenishing and protecting wildlife and marine resources, such as sea turtles, dolphins, birds, and oysters; and providing and enhancing recreational opportunities.



Louisiana Draft Recreational Use Plan

PROPOSED RESTORATION PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST
Elmer's Island Access	<p>This project proposes to enhance the recreational access opportunities on Elmer's Island Wildlife Refuge by incorporating a suite of elements and services to improve upon existing conditions. The project would develop multiple parking areas and kayak launches, improve the aquatic hydrology through the installation of culverts under the access road, repair a washout to provide additional bank fishing areas, improve bird watching opportunities, construct an elevated boardwalk to facilitate beach access points, and provide for long term road repairs as well as trash collection and removal services. This project would include final design and permitting, construction of project elements, long term operations and maintenance, as well as comprehensive monitoring activities.</p>	<p>\$6M</p>
Statewide Artificial Reefs	<p>This project proposes to enhance eleven artificial reef sites located across Louisiana's coastal basins. Specific reef sites would include locations in Lake Pontchartrain (Lake Front and West End), Breton Sound (California Point), Barataria (Independence Island and Grand Isle 9), Terrebonne (Point Mast and Bird Island), Caillou Bay (Ship Shoal 26, aka the Pickets), Cote Blanche Bay (Rabbit Island), Vermilion Bay (Cypremort Point 2), and Calcasieu Lake (East Calcasieu). The project would enhance these existing reef sites through the addition of new reef materials, which would improve the available habitat for a variety of aquatic species, while also offering enhanced recreational fishing opportunities. This project would include deployment of reef materials at eleven reef sites, as well as comprehensive monitoring activities.</p>	<p>\$6M</p>
Lake Charles Science Center and Educational Complex	<p>This project proposes to create a Science Center and Educational Complex (SCEC) in Lake Charles. The SCEC project would establish a public visitor center featuring an aquatic animal touch tank, multiple display aquaria, and interactive educational exhibits. Additionally, the SCEC project would include a youth fishing pond and covered pavilion, as well as a walking trail with accompanying outdoor educational components and a hunter safety range. This project would include final design and permitting, construction of project elements, long term operations and maintenance, as well as comprehensive monitoring activities.</p>	<p>\$7M</p>
Island Road Piers	<p>This project proposes to develop a series of safe road-side pullover and parking areas with adjoining fishing piers on Island Road in the Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area (PACWMA). Island Road is a narrow two lane road on the southern border of PACWMA connecting Highway 665 to the Isle de Jean Charles. This road is heavily utilized by the public for recreational fishing, with roadside parking often obstructing traffic. This project would develop a series of five parking areas and recreational fishing access points on Island Road, including final design and permitting, construction of project elements, long term operations and maintenance, as well as comprehensive monitoring activities.</p>	<p>\$3M</p>