

# Louisiana Restoration Area

July 2018



## WHO WE ARE

The Trustee representatives for the Louisiana Restoration Area are:

- Johnny Bradberry, Louisiana
- John Tirpak, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Mel Landry, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Ron Howard, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Doug Jacobson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## RECENT ACTIVITIES

In the past year, we have been busy overseeing the continued planning, engineering, design, and construction of restoration projects. In March 2018 we released a restoration plan for habitat restoration in Barataria Basin. In July 2018 we released two more restoration plans. One plan reallocated Early Restoration funds for four projects to address lost recreational use opportunities. The second plan also addressed lost recreational use opportunities and water quality.

## WHAT WE DO

Our work in the Louisiana Restoration Area focuses 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 Restoration Area

## RESTORATION PROJECTS

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ESTIMATED COST
<b>REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES</b>			
<b>Louisiana Oyster Cultch Project</b>	This project involved (1) the placement of oyster cultch onto approximately 850 acres of public oyster seed grounds throughout coastal Louisiana and (2) construction of an oyster hatchery facility that will serve to improve existing oyster hatchery operations and produce supplemental larvae and seed.		\$14.8M
<b>Queen Bess Island Restoration Project</b>	Barataria Bay is home to a limited number of bird rookeries. Queen Bess Island, located in Jefferson Parish, is one of the largest and most productive rookeries for a number of colonial nesting bird species, including brown pelicans. If implemented, this project will restore suitable colonial waterbird nesting and brood rearing habitat on the island from its current size of less than five acres to approximately 36 acres. The Trustees selected this project through the engineering and design phase and allocated \$2.5 million for these restoration activities.		\$17.5M
<b>Rabbit Island Restoration Project</b>	Rabbit Island is the westernmost nesting ground for brown pelicans in Louisiana. It is important to a number of colonial nesting bird species, including brown pelicans and reddish egrets. Today, Rabbit Island's total area is approximately 200 acres, with much of that being open water, and the majority of the land at or below sea level. If implemented, this project will restore the elevation of the island which will, in turn, increase the abundance and quality of nesting habitat for a number of colonial nesting waterbirds including brown pelicans, wading birds, terns, and other colonial nesting water birds. The Trustees selected this project through the engineering and design phase and allocated \$3 million for these restoration activities.		\$27M
<b>RESTORE AND CONSERVE HABITAT</b>			
<b>Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration</b>	The Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration project involves the restoration of beach, dune, and back-barrier marsh habitats, as well as brown pelicans, terns, skimmers, and gulls at four barrier island locations in Louisiana: Chenier Ronquille, Shell Island, North Breton Island, and Caillou Lake Headlands (also known as Whiskey Island on Isle Dernieres State Refuge). The State of Louisiana, NOAA, and DOI are working cooperatively on this project. Construction is complete on Chenier Ronquille, Caillou Lake Headlands, and Shell Island. Breton Island is currently in the design phase.		\$318.4M
<b>Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation</b>	This project created 104 acres of new brackish marsh in the Barataria Basin using hydraulically dredged sediment from a borrow area in the Mississippi River. The 104-acre fill area is also planted with native marsh vegetation to accelerate the benefits from this project.		\$13.2M

 In progress 
  Monitoring/O&M 
  Complete

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	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ESTIMATED COST
<b>RESTORE AND CONSERVE HABITAT (cont'd)</b>			
<b>Terrebonne Basin Ridge and Marsh Creation: Bayou Terrebonne Increment</b>	This ridge restoration and marsh creation project is located in western Terrebonne Parish and, if implemented, will create approximately 126 acres of earthen ridge and approximately 1,370 acres of marsh. The Trustees selected this project through the engineering and design phase and allocated \$3 million for these restoration activities.		\$123M
<b>Barataria Basin Ridge and Marsh Creation: Spanish Pass Increment</b>	This ridge restoration and marsh creation project is located in Plaquemines Parish. Spanish Pass is a natural historic tributary of the Mississippi River located west of Venice, Louisiana. If implemented, this project will restore approximately 120 acres of earthen ridge and approximately 1,134 acres of marsh. The Trustees selected this project through the engineering and design phase and allocated \$4.5 million for these restoration activities.		\$124.5M
<b>Large-Scale Barataria Marsh Creation – Component E</b>	If implemented, this project would create approximately 12,900 acres of marsh at the time of construction in Plaquemines and Jefferson parishes, Louisiana, in the Barataria Basin, south of The Pen to the Barataria Landbridge, to create new wetland habitat and restore degraded marsh. The Trustees selected one increment of this project through the engineering and design phase and allocated \$5.38 million for these restoration activities.		\$172.8M
<b>Lake Borgne Marsh Creation Project: Increment One</b>	This project is located in St. Bernard Parish, approximately four miles from Shell Beach on the southern rim of Lake Borgne to Lena Lagoon on the east. If implemented, this project will create approximately 1,548 acres of marsh. The Trustees selected this project through the engineering and design phase and allocated \$7 million for these restoration activities.		\$127M
<b>Shoreline Protection at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve</b>	This project is located in the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve and is being planned by the National Park Service. If implemented, this project will restore submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat by constructing breakwaters along the shorelines of Lake Cataouatche, Lake Salvador, and Bayou Bardeaux, and adds material where needed to raise the elevation of the existing features to match the elevation of the new construction. Marsh creation features and SAV planting activities may be integrated into the project. The Trustees have selected this project through the engineering and design phase and allocated \$2.3 million for these restoration activities.		\$41.4M

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<b>PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES</b>			
<b>Pass-a-Loutre WMA Crevasse Access</b>	Improve boating access to recreational areas by dredging waterways.		\$1.5M
<b>Pass-a-Loutre WMA Campgrounds</b>	Enhance existing campgrounds by improving access, and installing bulkheads, boat docks, and camping amenities.		\$1.6M
<b>Grand Isle State Park Improvements</b>	Upgrade existing fishing pier, rock jetties, boardwalk, and trails.		\$6M
<b>Chitimacha Boat Launch</b>	Construct new boat launch, parking area, pavilion, and trails.		\$650,000
<b>Sam Houston Jones State Park Improvements</b>	Construct new cabins and restrooms; renovations to existing cabins and restrooms.		\$2.4M
<b>Pointe-aux-Chenes WMA Recreational Enhancement</b>	Construct new fishing piers, boat pull-overs, parking lot, bridge, pirogue/boat launches, boat docks, and bulkheads.		\$5M
<b>The Wetlands Harbor Activities Recreational Facility (WHARF)</b>	Construct boardwalk for fishing and wildlife viewing, fishing piers, restroom facilities, and lighting.		\$995,000
<b>Bayou Segnette State Park Improvements</b>	Improvements to park property including new floating docks; replacing bathrooms; repairing playgrounds, roads, and parking areas.		\$2.1M
<b>Atchafalaya Delta WMA Access</b>	Improve boating access to recreational areas by dredging waterways.		\$920,450
<b>Atchafalaya Delta WMA Campgrounds</b>	Install rock jetties, bulkhead, and boat dock; campground repairs.		\$3.2M
<b>Rockefeller Piers/Rockefeller Signage</b>	Construct new fishing piers and install educational signage.		\$690,000
<b>St. Bernard State Park Improvements</b>	Renovate park entrance station, restroom and bathhouse facilities, and construct event pavilion.		\$1M
<b>Cypremort Point State Park Improvements</b>	Reinforce rock jetties, replace breakwater system, beach reclamation activities, replace fishing pier, and provide improvements to roads and parking areas.		\$4.4M
<b>The Wetlands Center</b>	Construct an educational and cultural venue adjacent to the existing Lafitte community center, with wetlands and natural history exhibits.		\$2M
<b>Recreational Use Improvements at Jean Lafitte NHPP</b>	Reconstruct boardwalk and trails, along with replacement and installation of wayside exhibits, within Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (NHPP).		\$1.2M
<b>Des Allemands Boat Launch</b>	Construct a new boat launch facility and associated boat/trailer parking, car parking, and wooden docks.		\$1.8M

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	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ESTIMATED COST
<b>PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (cont'd)</b>			
<b>Middle Pearl</b>	Improve existing boat launch and parking area, expand boat staging area, and install mooring docks and lighting.		\$575,000
<b>Improvements to Grand Avoille Boat Launch</b>	Construct new concrete boat ramp and apron, install wooden mooring docks, and improve parking area.		\$247,426
<b>Belle Chasse</b>	Construct a new back-down boat ramp and parking facility at existing unimproved boat launch off Walker Road in Belle Chasse.		\$250,000
<b>Elmer's Island Access</b>	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.		\$6M
<b>Statewide Artificial Reefs</b>	This project proposes to enhance eleven artificial reef sites located across Louisiana's coastal basins.		\$6M
<b>Lake Charles Science Center and Educational Complex</b>	This project proposes to create a Science Center and Educational Complex in Lake Charles		\$7M
<b>Island Road Piers</b>	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.		\$3M
<b>RESTORE WATER QUALITY</b>			
<b>Nutrient Reduction on Dairy Farms in St. Helena and Tangipahoa Parishes</b>	Improve water quality by reducing nutrient runoff from dairy farms through the targeted implementation of conservation practices in critical areas within small watersheds that addresses nutrient loads to downstream receiving waters. This will provide benefits to coastal watersheds and resources.		\$1.5M
<b>Nutrient Reduction on Dairy Farms in Washington Parish</b>	Improve water quality by reducing nutrient runoff from dairy farms through the targeted implementation of conservation practices in critical areas within small watersheds that addresses nutrient loads to downstream receiving waters. This will provide benefits to coastal watersheds and resources.		\$1.5M
<b>Nutrient Reduction on Crop and Grazing Lands in Bayou Fosse</b>	Improve water quality by reducing nutrient runoff from crop and grazing lands through the targeted implementation of conservation practices in critical areas within small watersheds that addresses nutrient and sediment loads to downstream receiving waters. This will provide benefits to coastal watersheds and resources.		\$3M
<b>Winter Water Holding on Cropland in Vermilion and Cameron Parishes Plus Agricultural BMPs</b>	Improve water quality by retaining irrigation water over the fall/winter on cropland for the purpose of improving water quality and wildlife habitat. Reducing nutrient runoff from crop and grazing through the implementation of conservation practices that addresses nutrient and sediment loads to downstream receiving waters. This will provide benefits to coastal watersheds and resources.		\$3.5M

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