



# Mississippi Restoration Area

## Improve Native Habitats by Removing Marine Debris from Mississippi Barrier Islands

June 2022

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will remove marine debris on Mississippi barrier islands managed by the National Park Service's Gulf Islands National Seashore (including all of Petit Bois, Horn, and Ship islands and a portion of Cat Island). These islands are critically important areas for shorebirds, sea turtles, beach invertebrates, functioning coastal habitat, and recreational use.

Marine debris represents a threat to a wide range of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species from entanglement, ingestion, transport of invasive species, and toxicity. Debris can also have impacts to humans.

Debris could be removed by a combination of contract marine salvage crews removing large debris which may need to be dismantled in place and crews, NPS staff, and potentially volunteers and other crews on foot collecting and aggregating small- and medium-size debris for transport and disposal.

The project will last three years with fieldwork being performed throughout each year.

### IMPLEMENTING TRUSTEES AND PROJECT PARTNERS

The Implementing Trustees for this project will be the Department of the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, and Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. Additional coordination may occur with the National Park Service and US Coast Guard personnel, contractors, volunteers from the Mississippi State University Extension office, and the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup initiative.

### ALLOCATION

\$3,000,000

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