

Gulf Islands National Seashore Beach Enhancement Project

Phase III Proposed Early Restoration Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This proposed beach enhancement project involves removing fragments of asphalt and road-base material that are scattered widely over the Fort Pickens, Santa Rosa, and Perdido Key areas of Gulf Islands National Seashore, in Florida. Several storms and hurricanes occurring since 1995 caused damage to area roads, and spread road fragments over hundreds of acres of barrier island wildlife habitat. The material is strewn over 14 miles in both vegetated and unvegetated dune areas, and in flat open beaches. The material also may exist in a small, two-mile long inter- and sub-tidal area on the Gulf side of the Fort Pickens where visitors sometimes swim.

The fragments of asphalt and road-base material range in shape and size from 10-foot large slabs to brick and quarter-inch pea size. The total volume of materials proposed for removal during this project is estimated at tens of thousands of cubic yards.

Mechanized beach-cleaning equipment (sifters) will be used throughout most of the area. Crews with hand tools will be used in sensitive areas such as wetlands or densely vegetated dunes. Where vegetation is sparse, some damage to vegetation will occur. All damaged vegetation will be replanted once cleanup activities are complete.

Cleanup activities will take place primarily during the late summer, fall, and winter months, when disturbance to visitors and wildlife will be minimal. Cleanup activities on land will not occur from March



Ben Frater/USFWS

15 to August 15, which is the height of the bird nesting season. Cleanup activities in-water will not occur from March 15 to November 15, which includes the sea turtle nesting and hatching season. Thus, fieldwork will be conducted over the remaining seven months of each year on land and the remaining four months of each year in-water.

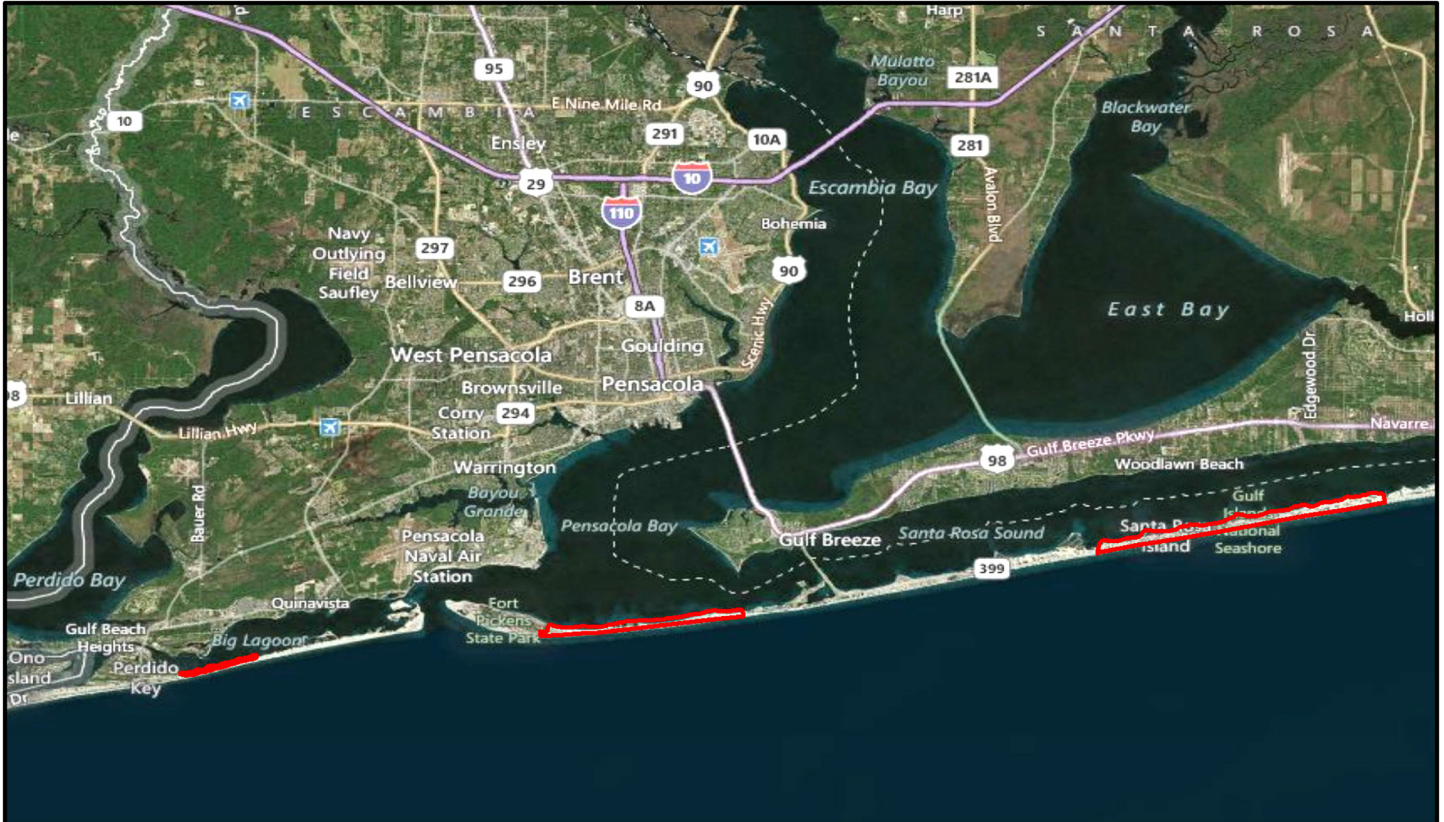
Visitor use of the park was lost due to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill incident, and this project restores some of that use by enhancing future visitors' experience of the park. For example, beneficial impacts to viewsheds would occur after asphalt and other road materials have been removed as the natural viewshed of the area would be restored.

ESTIMATED COST

The estimated amount of Deepwater Horizon oil spill early restoration funding proposed for this project is \$10,836,055.

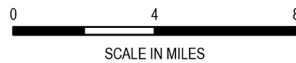
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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LEGEND

 Project Area



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
 THE INTERIOR

SITE LOCATION MAP
 ASPHALT REMOVAL PROJECT
 GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE

DATE	PROJECT NO	SCALE
NOVEMBER, 2013	12767.601.002.0007.10	AS SHOWN

FILE: D:\GISData\Projects\NPS\AsphaltRemoval\Maps\Site Location Map.mxd 10:33:57 AM 11/18/2013 baye

