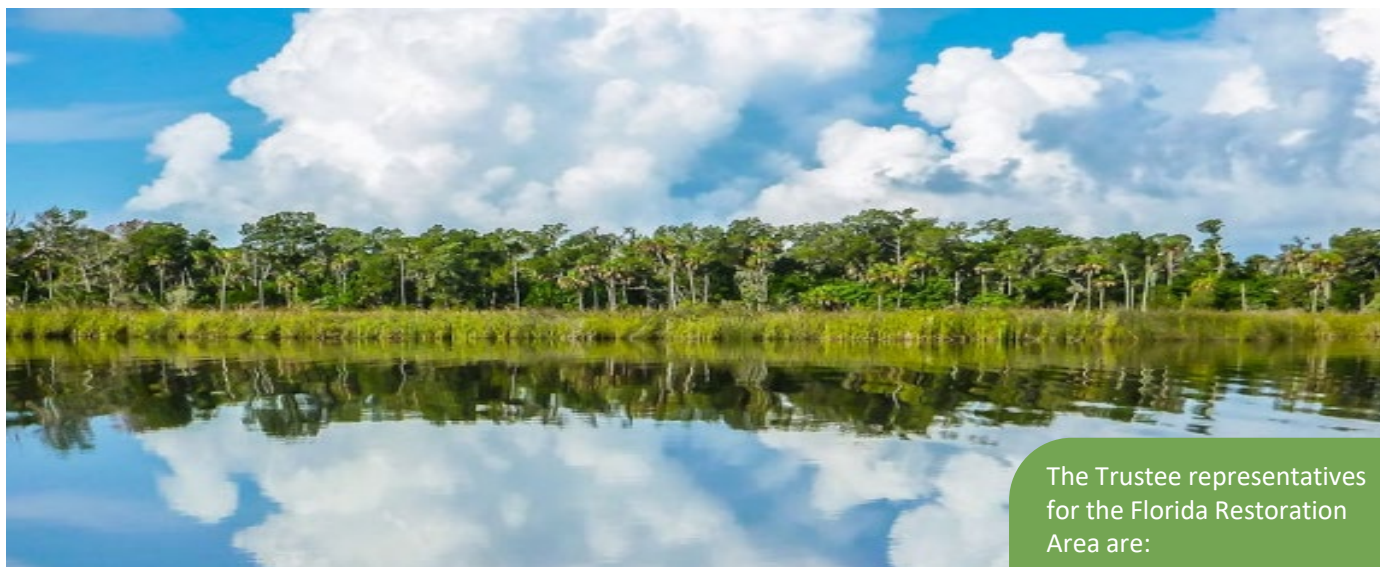




# Florida Restoration Area

June 2024



The Trustee representatives for the Florida Restoration Area are:

- Sarah Ketron, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Gareth Leonard, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Ashley Warren, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Stella Wilson, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Craig Johnson, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Tripp Boone, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## RECENT ACTIVITIES

We have been busy overseeing the planning, construction, and/or monitoring of projects. To date, of the 29 active early restoration projects, 12 have been completed (most recently, Big Lagoon State Park Boat Ramp Improvement and Gulf County Recreation Projects) and 9 are in the monitoring phase. Of the 44 post-settlement and restoration planning projects, two have been completed (Lower Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Hydrologic Restoration Initiative at Yucca Pens and Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge Hydrologic Restoration – Planning and Design), one is in the monitoring phase (Alligator Lake Coastal Dune Lake Hydrologic Restoration), and multiple projects are currently under construction. Also, we held a public meeting in March 2024 to present our third restoration plan to the public and to solicit public comment. The plan proposes to provide approximately \$111.5 million towards 11 water quality projects.

## WHAT WE DO

Our work focuses on restoring water quality and wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats and replenishing and protecting sea turtles, marine mammals, birds, and oysters. We also provide and enhance recreational opportunities and restore habitats on federal lands.

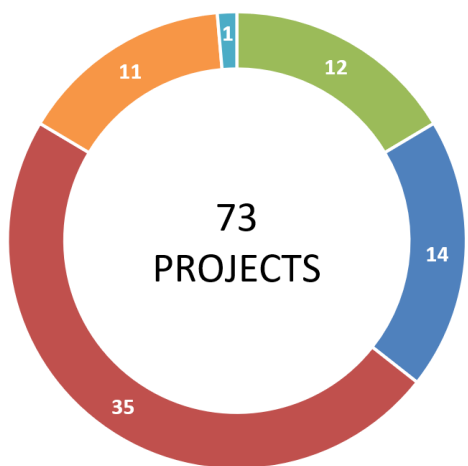




# Restoration Overview

\$265 million committed to approved projects

## PROJECTS BY RESTORATION GOAL



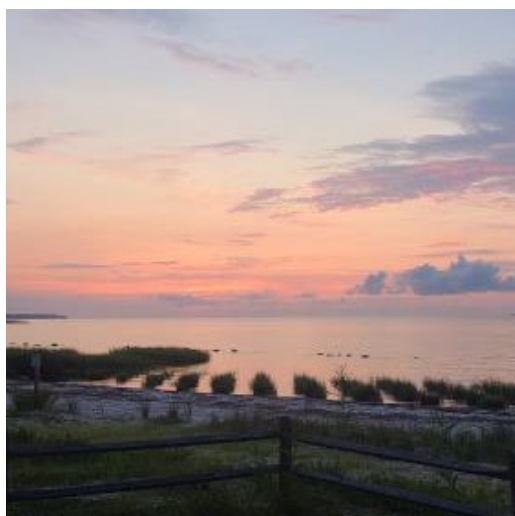
- REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES
- PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
- RESTORE WATER QUALITY
- RESTORE AND CONSERVE HABITAT
- MONITORING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

## Helping to Reduce Sea Turtle Vessel Strikes on Florida’s Gulf Coast //



A project is underway to help reduce mortality of sea turtle species from injuries due to strikes by motorized watercraft. This multi-stage project is collecting information on the distribution of sea turtles and vessels in hotspots of vessel strikes, namely East Pass (Walton County), Blind Pass/Johns Pass (Pinellas County), and Big Sarasota Pass/New Pass (Sarasota County). This project will conduct a public awareness campaign at each pass and assess the willingness of local communities to change their behavior to reduce the risk of watercraft-related mortality of sea turtles. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is implementing this project.

## PROJECT UPDATE // Florida Cat Point Living Shoreline Project



The Cat Point Living Shoreline project is an early restoration project located off Eastpoint, Florida (Franklin County) that utilized breakwater material to reduce shoreline erosion and provide habitat. Sixteen breakwater structures make up the 1,300-foot “backbone” and protect the shoreline against wave action, flooding, and storm surge and provide a protected area for oyster restoration. Behind the breakwaters, 20,634 native marsh grasses were planted to enhance and create salt marsh, which provides fish and wildlife habitat and acts as a natural filter to help improve coastal water quality. The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association named the project one of five recipients for 2023’s Best Restored Shores Award. Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves staff have conducted plantings and monitoring since 2020. Monitoring will continue until 2025.





## Funding Overview

Restoration Type	Settlement Allocation	Funds Committed Through May 2024	Percent Funds	
			Committed	Remaining
<b>Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats</b>	\$20,629,367	\$15,626,264	76%	24%
<b>Habitat Projects on Federally Managed Lands</b>	\$17,500,000	\$14,422,152	82%	18%
<b>Nutrient Reduction</b>	\$35,000,000	\$5,284,826	15%	85%
<b>Water Quality</b>	\$300,000,000	\$17,614,450	6%	94%
<b>Oysters</b>	\$25,370,596	\$8,173,408	32%	68%
<b>Sea Turtles</b>	\$20,000,000	\$6,559,587	33%	67%
<b>Marine Mammals</b>	\$5,000,000	\$5,020,129	100%	0%
<b>Birds</b>	\$42,835,000	\$19,251,603	45%	55%
<b>Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities</b>	\$183,817,680	\$167,273,039	91%	9%
<b>Monitoring and Adaptive Management</b>	\$10,000,000	\$1,473,993	15%	85%
<b>Administrative Oversight and Comprehensive Planning</b>	\$20,000,000	\$3,930,000	20%	80%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$680,152,643</b>	<b>\$264,629,452</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>61%</b>

The Florida TIG will finalize and release to the public its third restoration plan in summer of 2024.

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ONLINE [www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/florida](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/florida)

