



Louisiana Restoration Area

June 2024



RECENT ACTIVITIES

In the past year, we have been busy overseeing the continued planning, engineering, design, construction and monitoring, and adaptive management of more than 70 restoration projects. We continued project implementation on multiple projects across the full range of restoration types, including wetland, coastal and nearshore habitat; birds; oysters; nutrient reduction; and recreational use opportunities. We broke ground on the largest ecosystem restoration project in Louisiana’s history – the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. The aim of the project is to divert Mississippi River’s sediment and nutrient laden water into a newly built channel and guide it into the Barataria basin southeast of New Orleans, which in turn will help restore about 20 to 40 square miles of key wetlands. Also, the Louisiana Trustees recently completed a Guidance Document for Avian Habitat Restoration and Monitoring in Louisiana, which integrates coastal processes and avian ecology requirements with potential coastal engineering and construction specifications. The guidance will address a major knowledge gap and is considered critical in supporting ongoing and future *Deepwater Horizon* avian restoration activities.

The Trustee
Representatives for the
Louisiana Restoration
Area are:

- Glenn Ledet, Louisiana
- Sarah Clardy,
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





Restoration Overview

\$3.85 billion committed to approved projects

RECENT NEWS // Rabbit Island Operations and Maintenance Construction

Rabbit Island, the location of the state’s only nesting colony for brown pelicans in southwest Louisiana, underwent restoration in 2022. The project restored approximately 87 acres of the island’s original 200-acre footprint. An area of poor soils on the eastern side of the island led to high erosion rates from wind-generated wave fetch. A maintenance project was initiated that utilized 810 stone-filled gabion baskets placed along the eroding shoreline to act as shoreline protection. The project was bid and a construction contract was awarded in August of last year. Construction took a little over two months to complete. The 2,500 linear feet of baskets have proven very effective at halting shoreline erosion.



RECENT NEWS // Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation



This project was approved for construction funding in Restoration Plan #8 and will create and restore wetland, coastal and nearshore habitats by the placement of dredge material. The goals of the project are to utilize borrow material from Lake Borgne to create and nourish marsh along Lena Lagoon and to utilize materials dredged from Bayou La Loutre to restore the ridge along the southern bank of Bayou La Loutre. The ridge component was designed and bid separately from the Marsh creation component. Bids were received on April 4th and the contract was awarded on April 15th. Construction is expected to begin in June and take approximately six months to complete.





Funding Overview

Restoration Type	Settlement Allocation	Funds Committed Through May 2024	Percent Funds	
			Committed	Remaining
Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats	\$4,268,688,400	\$3,468,118,800	81%	19%
Habitat Projects on Federally Managed Lands	\$50,000,000	\$24,306,727	49%	51%
Nutrient Reduction	\$20,000,000	\$12,421,975	62%	38%
Oysters	\$40,874,300	\$40,780,864	100%	0%
Sea Turtles	\$10,000,000	\$0	0%	100%
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	\$22,000,000	\$0	0%	100%
Marine Mammals	\$50,000,000	\$3,456,438	7%	93%
Birds	\$220,437,300	\$148,323,537	67%	33%
Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities	\$60,000,000	\$59,084,767	98%	2%
Monitoring and Adaptive Management	\$225,000,000	\$80,373,062	36%	64%
Administrative Oversight and Comprehensive Planning	\$33,000,000	\$16,427,611	50%	50%
Total	\$5,000,000,000	\$3,853,293,781	77%	23%

Data current as of May 2024

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ONLINE
www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana


