Louisiana Restoration Area

June 2023

RECENT ACTIVITIES

In the past year, we have been busy overseeing the continued planning, engineering, design, construction and monitoring and adaptive management of 70 restoration projects. We completed restoration planning on three plans aimed at restoring wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats and birds for the Louisiana Restoration Area. These plans encompassed six projects for construction and engineering and design totaling over $2.4B. The Trustees also approved the development of seven Monitoring and Adaptive Management activities across restoration types totaling $36.1M.

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.

The Trustee Representatives for the Louisiana Restoration Area are:

- Lawrence B. “Bren” Haase, 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

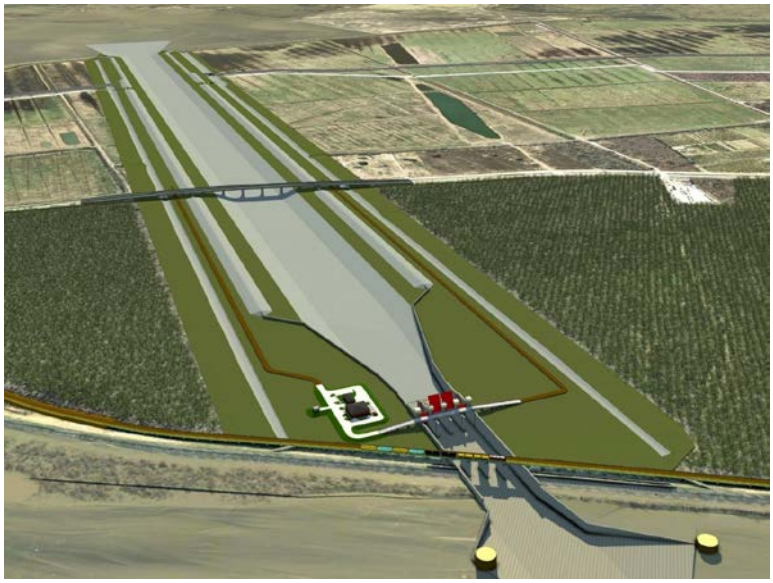
Restoration Overview

$3.78 billion committed to approved projects

RECENT NEWS // Trustees Release Final Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Plan

The Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group, released the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Final Restoration Plan 3.2. The plan evaluated using a large-scale sediment diversion to reconnect the Mississippi River to Louisiana's Barataria Basin estuary to restore wetlands and contribute to the broader restoration of its ecosystem. This first-of-its-kind project, costing more than $2 billion, represents one of the largest and most innovative coastal habitat restoration efforts ever undertaken.

The Final Restoration Plan provides an in-depth analysis of the benefits and impacts of a Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project and selects a preferred alternative for implementation. The project will re-establish historic delta processes by allowing for the controlled release of water, sediment, and nutrients from the Mississippi River into the Barataria Basin estuary, supporting ecosystem-scale restoration of the estuary.



Over 50 years, the sediment carried by the diversion is projected to restore over 13,000 acres of wetland habitat—which is 20 square miles. These restored wetlands would contribute to protecting communities and infrastructure, reducing impacts from storms, supporting healthier Gulf fisheries, and benefiting many species important to the region's economy and environment.

RECENT NEWS // Final Phase ll Restoration Plan 7.1 – Terrebonne HNC Island Restoration

The project will restore and conserve bird nesting and foraging habitat and create, restore, and enhance barrier and coastal islands and headlands by increasing the acreage of the island from 27.6 acres up to approximately 45 acres of shrub nesting, ground nesting, and marsh habitat. An existing, degraded perimeter rock dike will be restored, and breakwaters may be constructed on the northeast side of the island to provide further protection as well as calm water for loafing birds. Habitat restoration will be accomplished by raising the elevation of HNC Island using dredged material from a borrow area near Cat Island Pass.

Funding Overview

Restoration Type	Settlement Allocation	Funds Committed Through March 2023	Percent Funds Committed	Percent Funds Remaining
Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats	$4,268,688,400	$3,467,082,998	81%	19%
Habitat Projects on Federally Managed Lands	$50,000,000	$24,306,727	49%	51%
Nutrient Reduction	$20,000,000	$9,724,333	49%	51%
Oysters	$40,874,300	$40,874,300	100%	0%
Sea Turtles	$10,000,000	$0	0%	100%
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	$22,000,000	$0	0%	100%
Marine Mammals	$50,000,000	$3,572,490	7%	93%
Birds	$220,437,300	$115,809,892	53%	47%
Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities	$60,000,000	$60,099,290*	100%	0%
Monitoring and Adaptive Management	$225,000,000	$43,868,499	19%	81%
Administrative Oversight and Comprehensive Planning	$33,000,000	$14,185,686	43%	57%
Total	$5,000,000,000	$3,779,524,215	76%	24%

Data current as of May 2023

**Committed budgets are estimates and reconciliation of final expenditures will ensure that this restoration type allocation is not exceeded.*

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE // Dredging has begun on the Large Scale Barataria Marsh Creation Project in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. This NOAA implemented project includes filling areas to create an intertidal marsh platform that will support marsh plants and support healthy wetland habitat, which can lessen the impact of future storms by dissipating wave energy. The project will use approximately 8.4 million cubic yards of sediment dredged from the Mississippi River.

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