



## OPEN OCEAN RESTORATION AREA

# Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat Protection Expansion in Florida (Long Term Nesting Habitat Protection for Sea Turtles) (*preferred*)



Green sea turtle hatchling at Archie Carr NWR  
Photo by Keenan Adams, USFWS

**RESTORATION TYPE:** Sea Turtles

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project would prevent the loss of high-density sea turtle nesting habitat by acquiring and preserving habitat in perpetuity. Parcels would be acquired from willing sellers within the approved acquisition boundaries of Archie Carr and Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) along Florida's Atlantic Coast. This project would continue and expand upon existing project efforts from Open Ocean Trustees' [Long Term Nesting Habitat Protection for Sea Turtles](#) project. It would also leverage previous Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund land acquisition projects at the Archie Carr NWR ([Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge Acquisitions](#)). This project would help reduce habitat fragmentation, address protected landscape gaps, and reduce the risk of coastal armoring.

This project, estimated to cost \$5 million, would be implemented over approximately 6 years.



### PROJECT BENEFITS

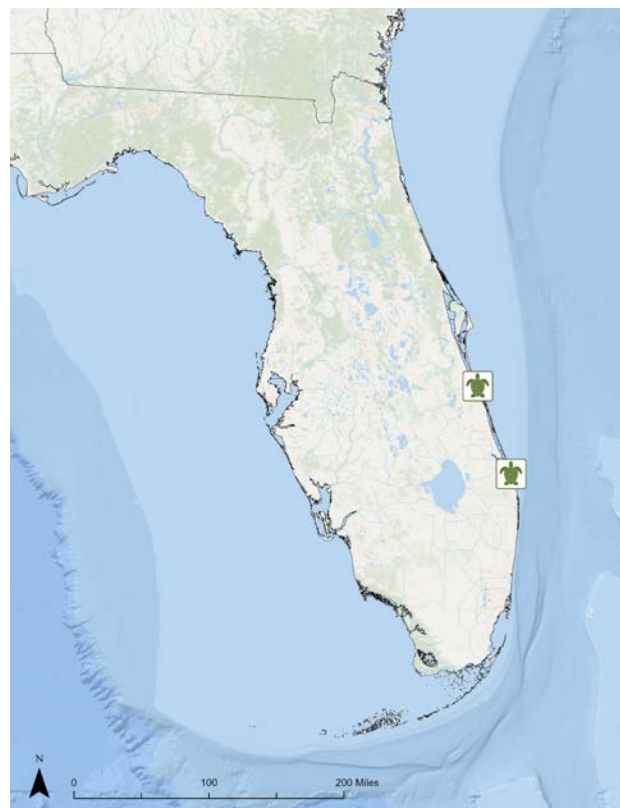
- Protects high-density loggerhead, green, and leatherback sea turtle nesting habitat in perpetuity
- Improves connectivity of protected nesting habitat



## Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat Protection Expansion in Florida (Long Term Nesting Habitat Protection for Sea Turtles) *(preferred)*

This project seeks to further prevent the loss of high-density sea turtle nesting beach habitat by establishing long-term protection and conservation of the habitat through land acquisition strategies, thereby helping to ensure successful sea turtle nesting, emergence of turtle hatchlings from nests, and their successful transit to the water.

This project would be a new component of the Open Ocean Trustees' *Long Term Nesting Habitat Protection for Sea Turtles* project. The project would acquire priority parcels from willing sellers within the approved acquisition boundaries of Archie Carr and Hobe Sound NWRs. All parcels would be acquired by a third-party land trust and would be donated to either the USFWS, the State of Florida, or Brevard, Indian River, Martin, or St. Lucie Counties. As needed, derelict structures would be removed from developed, acquired parcels that pose risks to nesting sea turtles and hatchlings. Such structures may include, but are not limited to, older homes, seawalls, or parking lots.



The project would ensure permanent protection of nesting habitat that contributes to the historic nesting distribution of loggerhead, green, and leatherback sea turtles that forage in the Gulf of Mexico.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/open-ocean](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/open-ocean)

