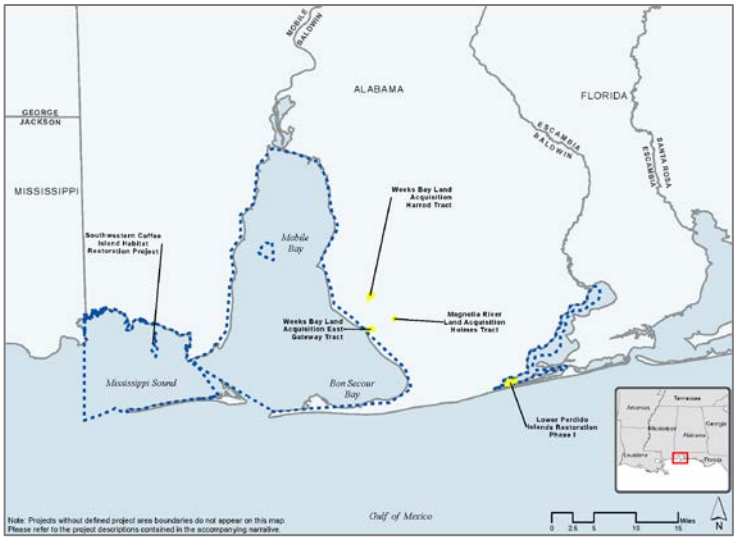
Alabama Restoration Area

Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats Restoration Type Draft Restoration Plan II

The *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement identified the following goals for Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats restoration:

- Restore a variety of interspersed and ecologically connected coastal habitats in each of the five Gulf states to maintain ecosystem diversity, with particular focus on maximizing ecological functions for the range of resources injured by the spill, such as oysters, estuarine-dependent fish species, birds, marine mammals, and nearshore benthic communities.
- Restore for injuries to habitats in the geographic areas where the injuries occurred, while considering approaches that provide resiliency and sustainability.
- While acknowledging the existing distribution of habitats throughout the Gulf of Mexico, restore habitats in appropriate combinations for any given geographic area. Consider design factors, such as connectivity, size, and distance between projects, to address injuries to the associated living coastal and marine resources and restore the ecological functions provided by those habitats.



In screening projects for Draft Restoration Plan II under this Restoration Type, Alabama Trustee Implementation Group (AL TIG) Trustees considered whether projects, at a minimum, would:

1. Restore a continuum of habitats (e.g., nearshore reef to salt marsh to coastal freshwater wetlands and adjacent upland buffer) within the nearshore ecosystem to contribute to an integrated, connected food web; and
2. Be located in areas identified as high priority for Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats restoration by the AL TIG—specifically the estuarine portions of Mississippi Sound, Grand Bay, Fowl River, Weeks Bay, and Perdido Bay/River watersheds.

Protection and restoration of the complex habitats in the high priority areas were identified as initiatives with the greatest potential for integrated, connected food web and water quality benefits.

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Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats Projects Proposed for Implementation in Draft Restoration Plan II

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST
RESTORE AND CONSERVE HABITAT - WETLANDS, COASTAL, AND NEARSHORE HABITATS		
Magnolia River Land Acquisition (Holmes Tract)	An approximately 80-acre tract with more than 1 mile of frontage on Magnolia River and Weeks Creek would be acquired, protected, and restored to provide the best habitat for native and endemic species possible. The tract would be maintained and managed by the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) and owned the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR). The ADCNR would be the implementing Trustee.	$4,144,162
Weeks Bay Land Acquisition (East Gateway Tract)	A 175-acre undeveloped tract at the mouth of Weeks Bay in Baldwin County would be acquired, protected, and restored, including over 100 acres of wetlands. This project would also include E&D for removal of a bulkhead on the waterfront point of the property that splits Weeks Bay and Mobile Bay. The tract would be maintained by Weeks Bay NERR and owned by ADCNR. The ADCNR would be the implementing Trustee.	$4,247,000
Weeks Bay Land Acquisition (Harrod Tract)	Approximately 231 acres, one of the largest remaining undeveloped parcels of cypress and gum swamp, marsh, and river shoreline in coastal Alabama and the largest privately-owned tract on the lower Fish River, would be acquired, protected, and restored. The tract would be maintained by Weeks Bay NERR and owned by ADCNR. The ADCNR would be the implementing Trustee.	$3,606,900
Lower Perdido Islands Restoration - Phase I (Engineering and Design Only)	This project would fund the development of a unified strategy for protecting the ecological functions of the Perdido Islands complex while allowing for passive public recreation. The project area includes several islands at the intersections of Bayou Saint John, Terry Cove, Cotton Bayou, and Perdido Pass, all within the lower Perdido River and Bay watershed. The ADCNR would be the implementing Trustee.	$994,523
Southwestern Coffee Island Habitat Restoration - Phase I (Engineering and Design Only)	This project would fund planning activities related to the restoration and creation of colonial nesting bird breeding habitat and tidal wetlands along the southwestern shoreline of Coffee Island, located in Mississippi Sound in south Mobile County, Alabama. Phase 1 would include 1) a synthesis of certain bird data in coastal Alabama, and 2) E&D and permitting to evaluate restoration of habitat on Coffee Island for further development in a later plan. The ADCNR would be the implementing Trustee.	$825,225 (Shared with Birds Restoration Type funding)

For additional information, contact:

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