

Florida Restoration Area

July 2018



WHO WE ARE

The Trustee Representatives for the Florida Restoration Area are:

- Leslie Ames, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
- Gareth Leonard, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
- Dianne Ingram, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Laurie Rounds, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Ron Howard, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Amy Newbold, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

RECENT ACTIVITIES

In the past year, we have been busy overseeing the continued engineering, design, and construction of early restoration projects. We released a final plan for the second phase of the Florida Coastal Access Project in February 2018. We are also busy drafting our first post-settlement restoration plan to be released for public comment later this summer.











WHAT WE DO

Our work in the Florida Restoration Area focuses on restoring water quality and habitat, and replenishing and protecting wildlife populations such as sea turtles, dolphins, birds, and oysters. We are also providing and enhancing recreational opportunities and restoring habitats on federal lands.



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RESTORATION PROJECTS



	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ESTIMATED COST
REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES			
Enhanced Management of Avian Breeding Habitat Injured by Response Activities	Beach-nesting bird habitats were harmed by oil spill response activities. Marking sensitive nesting sites aims to protect eggs, chicks and adults. The project is located across three Gulf states: Florida, Alabama and Mississippi. In Florida, site enhancements are located in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, and Franklin counties. The Department of the Interior and Florida are implementing this project together.		\$2.8M
Florida Oyster Cultch Placement	This project in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Bay, and Franklin counties placed cultch material for the settling of oyster larvae and oyster colonization in three Florida Bays. The bays include Pensacola and St. Andrews Bay and involved placing 12,000 cubic yards of material over 60 acres in each bay system. In Apalachicola Bay 18,000 cubic yards of material were placed over a 90-acre area. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$5.4M
RESTORE AND CONSERVE HABITAT			
Florida (Pensacola Beach) Dune Restoration Project	This beach was impacted by oiling, and the extensive use of all-terrain vehicles and heavy equipment. Since June 2010, this has inhibited plant growth and the natural seaward expansion of the dunes. This project restored the affected area of the beach. FDEP implemented this project.		\$586K
Pensacola Bay Living Shorelines	Florida is partnering with NOAA to construct a living shoreline at the Project GreenShores Site II location. Living shorelines protect and stabilize coastline while creating new habitat for fish, oysters, and birds. Approximately 6 to 8 acres of salt marsh habitat and 4 acres of reef habitat will be created along this urban shoreline of Pensacola, Florida. FDEP and NOAA are implementing this project together.		\$10.8M
Florida Cat Point Living Shoreline	This project is located in Franklin County and intends to expand on an existing breakwater on-site of the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve in Eastpoint. The living shoreline technique will be employed along approximately 0.3 mile of shoreline and create approximately one acre of salt marsh habitat. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$776K
Florida Seagrass Recovery Project	This project is primarily located in St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve in Gulf County with potential additional sites in Franklin and Bay County Aquatic Preserves. The first step is surveying and mapping the seagrass scarring in three Aquatic Preserves with the placement of sediment tides across two acres of seagrass propeller scars. Placement of bird stakes in the project area to facilitate restoration and signage for boaters and educational brochures are also included. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$2.7M
Perdido Key Dune Restoration	This project begins approximately 2.2 miles east of Perdido Pass and extends approximately 6 miles to the east. The project restores dune vegetation to approximately 20 acres of degraded beach dune habitat, including habitat used by the federally endangered Perdido Key Beach Mouse. Planting dune vegetation provides a buffer to the primary dune and enhances dune habitats. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$611K
Seagrass Recovery Project at Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District	This project at Gulf Islands National Seashore's Florida District addresses injury caused by both the oil spill and response activities to shallow seagrass beds. Turtle grass was planted in seagrass beds located on the south side of the Naval Live Oaks Preserve in Santa Rosa Sound, in Santa Rosa County. The Department of the Interior implemented this project.		\$137K
PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES			
The Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area Fishing and Wildlife Viewing Access Improvements, Cash Bayou and Sand Beach	This project constructed a boardwalk on the 1/4-mile Sand Beach interpretive trail as well as a fishing and wildlife observation structure and parking at Cash Bayou. FWC implemented this project.		\$263K
Bald Point State Park Recreation Areas	This project constructs picnic pavilions, boardwalks, and a restroom with an associated aerobic treatment system and drain field, as well as a floating dock and a canoe/kayak launch in the park. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$471K

 In progress  Monitoring/O&M  Complete

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PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (cont'd)			
Big Lagoon State Park Boat Ramp Improvement	This project expands the boat ramp and boat trailer parking, improves traffic circulation at the boat ramp at the Big Lagoon State Park, and constructs a new restroom. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$1.5M
Bob Sikes Pier, Parking, and Trail Restoration	This project adds solar lighting, modifies the pier and rails, and renovates designated parking areas at the existing Bob Sikes fishing pier on Santa Rosa Island. The project also improves signage, widens and enhances an access trail, and implements aesthetic improvements at the pier. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$1M
The City of Parker – Oak Shore Drive Pier	This project constructs a fishing pier at Oak Shore Drive. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$994K
Deer Lake State Park Development	This project adds a paved access road, parking, picnic shelters and a restroom. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$589K
Developing Enhanced Recreational Opportunities on the Escribano Point Portion of the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area	This project improves public access and enjoyment of natural resources at Escribano Point. The improvements include a one-time assessment and mapping activities necessary for developing the site for outdoor recreation purposes, hurricane debris removal and road repair, constructing an entrance kiosk, information facilities, parking facilities, a parking area, interpretive fishing facility, primitive camping sites, wildlife viewing areas, and bear-proof containers for trash and storage. FWC is implementing this project.		\$2.6M
Perdido Key State Boardwalk Improvements	This project removes and replaces six existing boardwalks leading to the beach from two public access areas along Perdido Key in Escambia County. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$589K
Scallop Enhancement for Increased Recreational Fishing Opportunity in the Florida Panhandle	This project is being implemented in Bay, Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Gulf, and Franklin counties. The goal of this project is to increase scallop populations in the targeted locations to self-sustaining levels to support recreational harvests. FWC is implementing this project.		\$2.9M
The Panama City Marina Fishing Pier, Boat Ramp, and Staging Docks	This project constructs a fishing pier, replaces a poorly functioning boat ramp, and constructs new staging docks at the marina. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$2M
Wakulla Mashas Sands Park Improvements	This project constructs observation platforms, a canoe/kayak launch, boardwalks, and walking paths. The boat ramp area, picnic areas, restroom facility, and parking area are also being improved. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$1.5M
The Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps	These projects support existing and provide new recreational opportunities at Eastpoint Fishing Pier, Indian Creek Park boat launch facility, St. George Island Fishing Pier, Waterfront Park in Apalachicola. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$1.8M
Florida Artificial Reef Creation and Restoration	This project takes place in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, and Bay counties. The project includes reef designs to be constructed at various depths. The deep water "nearshore reefs" have a single, prefabricated modular design and are located within nine nautical miles of shore. Shallower "snorkeling reefs" have a piling-mounted design using disc-shaped concrete and limestone layers with spacers between the layers, in less than 20 feet deep water and within 950 feet of shore. FWC is implementing this project.		\$11.5M

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PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (cont'd)			
Florida Boat Ramp Enhancement and Construction Project	This project provides new or enhanced access to public waterways within Pensacola Bay at Navy Point Boat Ramp, Galvez Landing Boat Ramp, Mahogany Mill Boat Ramp, and Perdido River Boat Ramp. Project is complete and open for public use. FDEP implemented this project.		\$5.1M
Florida Gulf Coast Marine Fisheries Hatchery/ Enhancement Center	This project allows for the construction and operation of a saltwater sportfish hatchery in Bruce Beach, Pensacola. This facility provides hatchery production and eventual release of highly sought-after sportfish species. Hatchery production is based on the use of intensive recirculating aquaculture systems that reduce water usage and effluent discharge. FDEP and FWC are implementing this project together.		\$18.8M
The Walton County Boardwalks and Dune Crossovers	This project enhances or constructs beach access facilities at Ed Walline, Gulfview Heights, and Palms of Due Allen West to provide enhanced recreational opportunities. Furthermore, this project improves recreational opportunities at Bayside Ranchettes Park. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$564K
Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida's Gulf Coast	These projects enhance recreational opportunities at City of Mexico Beach Marina; City of Parker, Earl Gilbert Dock and Ramp; City of Port St. Joe, Frank Pate Boat Ramp; Panama City St. Andrews Marina Docking Facility; Walton County Lafayette Creek Boat Ramp; and City of St. Marks boat ramp. FWC is implementing this project.		\$3.2M
Shell Point Beach Nourishment	This project re-nourishes Shell Point Beach in Wakulla County. The improvements include the placement of approximately 15,000 cubic yards of sand along one mile of beach. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$883K
Gulf County Recreation Project	These projects enhance recreational opportunities at Highland View Boat Ramp, Beacon Hill Veterans Memorial Park, and Windmark Beach Fishing Pier. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$2.1M
Navarre Beach Park Coastal Access and Dune Restoration	This project constructs two beach access boardwalks from the existing pavilion and parking lot areas to the Santa Rosa Sound and constructs a new canoe/kayak launch. Roughly one-acre parcel of degraded dune habitat will also be restored. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$615K
Navarre Beach Park Gulfside Walkover Complex	This project constructs a dune walkover that provides access to the beach and constructs an entrance, driveway, parking area, restroom and pavilions with boardwalk connections at the Navarre Beach Park Gulfside Walkover complex. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$1.2M
Norriego Point Restoration and Recreation Project	The project includes the construction of several erosion control structures, two new embayments, which provide additional swimming areas, and recreational facilities, including picnic pavilion with restrooms and showers, multi-use trail, bike racks and vehicle parking. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$10.2M
Florida Coastal Access Project	This project, to be implemented in phases, involves the acquisition of parcels and the creation of local parks. Phase one involves acquisition and/or improvement of four locations across the Panhandle to increase recreational uses and coastal access. These sites are Innerarity Point Park (Escambia County), Leonard Destin Park, Lynn Haven Preserve and Park, and Island View Park. Phase II involves the acquisition and improvement of the Salinas Park Addition in Gulf County to increase recreational uses and coastal access. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$45.4M
Northwest Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration	This project is located in Fort Walton Beach and creates an educational and interactive boardwalk to allow public access to areas of Santa Rosa Sound. In addition, the project conducts several small natural resource and habitat enhancement projects including a 0.1-acre expansion of an existing intertidal oyster reef and an approximately 0.4-acre restoration of a degraded salt marsh. FDEP is implementing this project.		\$1.7M

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