Alabama Restoration Area

WHO WE ARE

The Trustee representatives for the Alabama Restoration Area are:

- Amy Hunter, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Seth Newton, Geological Survey of Alabama
- Dianne Ingram, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Dan Van Nostrand, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Ron Howard, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Chris Parker, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

WHAT WE DO

Our work in the Alabama Restoration Area will focus on restoring and conserving habitat and replenishing and protecting wildlife such as sea turtles, marine mammals, birds, and oysters. We will also provide and enhance recreational opportunities, restore water quality, and restore habitats on federal lands.

RECENT PLANNING ACTIVITIES

In the past year, we have been busy overseeing the continued engineering, design, and construction of restoration projects. We completed a restoration plan in April 2017 that includes six projects at a total cost of $70.7 million. We intend to begin drafting a second restoration plan later this year.

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RESTORATION PROJECTS

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ESTIMATED COST
REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES			
Alabama Oyster Cultch Restoration	This project enhances and improves oyster populations in the estuarine waters of Alabama through the placement of oyster shell cultch in subtidal habitat within the footprint of historic oyster reefs in the area.	◉	$3.2M
Improving Habitat Injured by Spill Response: Restoring the Night Sky	Public area lighting deters female turtles from reaching their natural beach habitat and reduces successful nesting. The lighting also disrupts the migration of baby sea turtles toward the ocean. This project retrofits existing lighting to make it more turtle friendly at locations in Florida and Alabama. The Department of the Interior along with Alabama and Florida state agencies are working together to implement this project.	⟳	$100K
Osprey Restoration in Coastal Alabama	This project establishes five osprey nesting platforms along the coast in Mobile and Baldwin counties to provide nests for osprey and other birds. Osprey require nests in open surroundings that provide safety from ground predators. The structures typically consist of a platform atop a pole with predator guards.	⟳	$45K
RESTORE AND CONSERVE HABITAT			
Alabama Dune Restoration Cooperative Project	This project restores 55 acres of primary dune habitat through the planting of native vegetation and installation of sand fencing in Baldwin County, Alabama. This project uses plants and natural resources, rather than hard structures, to prevent erosion. The Department of the Interior is working to implement this project.	⟳	$1.48M
Marsh Island (Portersville Bay) Marsh Creation	Salt marshes provide important habitat for many species. This project restores approximately 50 acres of salt marsh and protects Marsh Island through the placement of a permeable breakwater, placement of sediments, and planting of native marsh vegetation.	⟳	$11.3M
Point aux Pins Living Shoreline	The Point aux Pins Living Shoreline stabilizes the shore by providing erosion protection. The project uses materials that dampen wave energy to protect the shore while also providing habitat for marine life.	⟳	$2.3M
Alabama Swift Tract Living Shoreline	NOAA constructed approximately 1.6 miles of breakwaters to reduce shoreline erosion, protect salt marsh habitat, and restore ecosystem diversity and productivity in Bon Secour Bay. It is expected that over time, the breakwaters will develop into reefs, providing added reproductive and foraging habitat and shelter from predators for marine wildlife.	◉	$5M
PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES			
Gulf State Park Enhancement Project	The oil spill and its associated response activities resulted in the loss of millions of beach, boating and fishing trips along the Alabama Gulf Coast. This project enhances public enjoyment of Gulf State Park's natural resources by building an Interpretive Center and visitor enhancements such as trails, overlooks or rest areas, and restoring degraded dune habitat.	⟳	$29.2M
Gulf State Park Lodge and Associated Public Access Amenities	The oil spill and its associated response activities resulted in the loss of millions of beach, boating and fishing trips along the Alabama Gulf Coast. This project enhances public access to and enjoyment of Gulf State Park's natural resources by providing partial funding for rebuilding the Gulf State Park Lodge and providing public access amenities such as a tram system, pedestrian path, bathrooms, and educational programs, among others.	⟳	$56.3M

⟳ In progress ◉ Monitoring ✓ Complete

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	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ESTIMATED COST
PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES *(cont'd)*			
Fort Morgan Pier Rehabilitation	The project funds the rehabilitation of a 500-foot-long pier that was closed in 2014 for safety reasons. The intent is for the pier to be rehabilitated on its existing foundations to increase publicly available opportunities for pier-based fishing and wildlife viewing and return to its previous operations schedule.	⟳	$3M
Laguna Cove Little Lagoon Natural Resource Protection	The Laguna Cove Little Lagoon Natural Resource Protection Project funds the acquisition of two tracts of undeveloped property as well as the creation of recreational amenities to provide additional public access to Little Lagoon. Amenities could include parking spaces, a public fishing pier, bathrooms, a boardwalk and a kayak launch.	⟳	$4.4M
Bayfront Park Restoration and Improvement	This project includes engineering and design work to evaluate the construction of a living shoreline and/or sandy beach along the Mobile Bay shoreline within the park and to evaluate other recreational amenities such as improved restroom and playground facilities, a renovated boardwalk and nature trail, and expanded birdwatching opportunities, among others.	⟳	$1M
Dauphin Island Eco-Tourism and Environmental Education Area	This project acquires approximately 100 acres of coastal salt marsh, water bottom and upland habitat on Dauphin Island. In addition to protecting the property from development, the project creates recreational amenities to promote public access to and enjoyment of the natural resources at the site. These visitor amenities include parking, a fishing pier, restrooms, an elevated boardwalk, gazebo, bicycle paths, and educational displays.	⟳	$4M
Mid-Island Parks and Public Beach Improvements (Parcels B and C)	This project involves the acquisition and management of two parcels of property on Dauphin Island (Parcels B and C) to maintain the parcels in a natural state. The project also includes the construction of public parking and restrooms to increase public access and enhance the quality of visitor experience. The work on parcels B and C supports additional access to Parcel A, the acquisition of which was approved for funding by the NFWF program.	⟳	$1.9M

⟳ In progress ◉ Monitoring ✓ Complete