Louisiana Restoration Area

WHO WE ARE

The Trustee representatives for the Louisiana Restoration Area are:

- Johnny Bradberry, Louisiana
- John Tirpak, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Mel Landry, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Homer Wilkes, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Doug Jacobson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

RECENT PLANNING ACTIVITIES

In the past year, we have been busy overseeing the continued planning, engineering, design, and construction of restoration projects. We completed our first restoration plan in January 2017, and are drafting plans for habitat restoration in Barataria Basin and to address lost recreational use opportunities and water quality.

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.

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RESTORATION PROJECTS

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ESTIMATED COST
REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES			
Louisiana Oyster Cultch Project	This project involved (1) the placement of oyster cultch onto approximately 850 acres of public oyster seed grounds throughout coastal Louisiana and (2) construction of an oyster hatchery facility that will serve to improve existing oyster hatchery operations and produce supplemental larvae and seed.	⟳	$14.8M
Queen Bess Island Restoration Project	Barataria Bay is home to a limited number of bird rookeries. Queen Bess Island, located in Jefferson Parish, is one of the largest and most productive rookeries for a number of colonial nesting bird species, including brown pelicans. If implemented, this project will restore suitable colonial waterbird nesting and brood rearing habitat on the island from its current size of less than five acres to approximately 36 acres. The Trustees selected this project through the engineering and design phase and allocated $2.5 million for these restoration activities.	⟳	$17.5M
Rabbit Island Restoration Project	Rabbit Island is the westernmost nesting ground for brown pelicans in Louisiana. It is important to a number of colonial nesting bird species, including brown pelicans and reddish egrets. Today, Rabbit Island's total area is approximately 200 acres, with much of that being open water, and the majority of the land at or below sea level. If implemented, this project will restore the elevation of the island which will, in turn, increase the abundance and quality of nesting habitat for a number of colonial nesting waterbirds including brown pelicans, wading birds, terns, and other colonial nesting water birds. The Trustees selected this project through the engineering and design phase and allocated $3 million for these restoration activities.	⟳	$27M
RESTORE AND CONSERVE HABITAT			
Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration	The Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration project involves the restoration of beach, dune, and back-barrier marsh habitats, as well as brown pelicans, terns, skimmers, and gulls at four barrier island locations in Louisiana: Chenier Ronquille, Shell Island, North Breton Island, and Caillou Lake Headlands (also known as Whiskey Island on Isle Dernieres State Refuge). The State of Louisiana, NOAA, and DOI are working cooperatively on this project. Construction is complete on Chenier Ronquille and Shell Island. Construction in ongoing on Caillou Lake Headlands and Breton Island is currently in the design phase.	⟳	$318.4M
Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation	This project created 104 acres of new brackish marsh in the Barataria Basin using hydraulically dredged sediment from a borrow area in the Mississippi River. The 104-acre fill area is also planted with native marsh vegetation to accelerate the benefits from this project.	◉	$13.2M

⟳ In progress ◉ Monitoring ✓ Complete

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RESTORE AND CONSERVE HABITAT (*cont'd*)			
Terrebonne Basin Ridge and Marsh Creation: Bayou Terrebonne Increment	This ridge restoration and marsh creation project is located in western Terrebonne Parish and, if implemented, will create approximately 126 acres of earthen ridge and approximately 1,370 acres of marsh. The Trustees selected this project through the engineering and design phase and allocated $3 million for these restoration activities.	⟳	$123M
Barataria Basin Ridge and Marsh Creation: Spanish Pass Increment	This ridge restoration and marsh creation project is located in Plaquemines Parish. Spanish Pass is a natural historic tributary of the Mississippi River located west of Venice, Louisiana. If implemented, this project will restore approximately 120 acres of earthen ridge and approximately 1,134 acres of marsh. The Trustees selected this project through the engineering and design phase and allocated $4.5 million for these restoration activities.	⟳	$124.5M
Lake Borgne Marsh Creation Project: Increment One	This project is located in St. Bernard Parish, approximately four miles from Shell Beach on the southern rim of Lake Borgne to Lena Lagoon on the east. If implemented, this project will create approximately 1,548 acres of marsh. The Trustees selected this project through the engineering and design phase and allocated $7 million for these restoration activities.	⟳	$127M
Shoreline Protection at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve	This project is located in the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve and is being planned by the National Park Service. If implemented, this project will restore submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat by constructing breakwaters along the shorelines of Lake Cataouatche, Lake Salvador, and Bayou Bardeaux, and adds material where needed to raise the elevation of the existing features to match the elevation of the new construction. Marsh creation features and SAV planting activities may be integrated into the project. The Trustees have selected this project through the engineering and design phase and allocated $2.3 million for these restoration activities.	⟳	$41.4M

PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The LA TIG is no longer implementing the Louisiana Marine Fisheries Enhancement, Research, and Science Center, and these funds will be reallocated to a restoration project(s) intended to Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities in Louisiana. We are currently conducting restoration planning for a replacement project(s).

⟳ In progress ◉ Monitoring ✓ Complete