

Texas Restoration Area



WHAT WE DO

Our work in the Texas Restoration Area focuses on restoring wetlands and other coastal habitats and reducing nonpoint source pollution. We are also restoring wildlife injured by the spill, including oysters, birds, and sea turtles.



WHO WE ARE

The Trustee representatives for the Texas Restoration Area are:





- Don Pitts, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Angela Sunley, Texas General Land Office
- Richard Seiler, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Chip Wood, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Jamie Schubert, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Ron Howard, 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 engineering, design, and construction of restoration projects. Detail on ongoing restoration projects, such as the Texas Rookery Islands and Sea Turtle Early Restoration project, can be found in the table on the next page. We also released a final restoration plan in October 2017 that includes an additional 13 projects at an estimated cost of \$45.7 million in the restoration categories of oysters and wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats.

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RESTORATION PROJECTS




| | PROJECT DESCRIPTION | STATUS | ESTIMATED COST |
|--|---|---|----------------|
| REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES | | | |
| Texas Rookery Islands | This project restores and protects three rookery islands in Galveston Bay and one in East Matagorda Bay at the Big Boggy National Wildlife Refuge to increase nesting pairs of colonial waterbirds, such as pelicans, gulls, and herons. Restoration increases the amount of available nesting habitat and enhances habitat quality. Islands are protected by expanding island size, establishing vegetation, and building protective features like breakwaters. Texas and the Department of the Interior are working together to implement this project. |  | \$20M |
| Sea Turtle Early Restoration Project | This project includes complementary components that address threats to sea turtles on nesting beaches and in the marine environment: (1) Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle Nest Detection and Enhancement; (2) Enhancement of the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network; and (3) Enhancement of Texas Fisheries Bycatch Enforcement. The Department of the Interior and Texas are working together to implement this project. |  | \$20M |
| Oyster Restoration Engineering | This project includes an initial alternative analysis to identify the best management practices for rehabilitating oyster reefs buried by sediment and for constructing intertidal oyster reefs within the Galveston Bay System. Results of this analysis will be used to develop location-specific engineering, design, and environmental permitting documents for one or more oyster restoration projects that could be readily implemented. |  | \$309,000 |
| RESTORE AND CONSERVE HABITAT | | | |
| Bird Island Cove Habitat Restoration Engineering | This project conducts engineering and design necessary to restore and conserve wetlands and coastal habitats in Galveston Bay. This phase investigates ongoing issues associated with habitat degradation and develops strategies to protect and restore existing estuarine habitats. |  | \$206,000 |
| Essex Bayou Habitat Restoration Engineering | This project conducts engineering and design necessary to understand the factors that contribute to high salinities within Essex Bayou and the Slop Bowl Marsh system and to develop solutions to create a more stable estuarine system. |  | \$372,000 |
| Dredged Material Planning for Wetland Restoration | This project identifies priority locations and develops designs necessary for the permitting of the beneficial use of dredge material for marsh restoration at eight locations along the Texas coast. |  | \$1.9M |
| McFaddin Beach and Dune Restoration | This project includes placement of sand along approximately 17 miles of shoreline in northeastern Texas to provide important ecological benefits to the interior marshes of McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge. This project funds about a third of the estimated \$45 million total project cost. The Texas TIG will partner with other funding sources to complete the construction, monitoring, and/or planning activities. |  | \$15.8M |
| Bessie Heights Wetland Restoration | This project restores wetlands in Bessie Heights Marsh located within the Lower Neches Wildlife Management Area in Orange County, Texas. It will beneficially use sediment obtained from dredging of the federally managed Sabine-Neches Waterway, and dredged material from other sources to restore coastal wetlands. Up to 900 acres of intertidal marsh are expected to be restored. |  | \$4.9M |
| Pierce Marsh Wetland Restoration | This project beneficially uses dredged material to create up to 150 acres of viable, vegetated wetland habitat for a variety of plants, fish, birds, and other wildlife. |  | \$3M |

 In progress  Monitoring  Complete

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RESTORATION PROJECTS

| | PROJECT DESCRIPTION | STATUS | ESTIMATED COST |
|--|---|---|----------------|
| RESTORE AND CONSERVE HABITAT (cont'd) | | | |
| Indian Point Shoreline Erosion Protection | The project constructs 2,800 linear-feet of segmented breakwaters to protect 50 acres of critical seagrass, coastal marsh, lagoons, and associated upland habitats. |  | \$2.1M |
| Bahia Grande Hydrologic Restoration | This project enlarges and stabilizes a pilot channel that increases tidal flow into Bahia Grande, restoring the system's natural tidal exchange and creating habitat for a variety of fish, shellfish, and migratory waterfowl. |  | \$5M |
| Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor Habitat Acquisition | This project acquires approximately 1,300 acres of tidal wetlands, thorn scrub, and coastal prairie that will be conveyed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be managed as part of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. |  | \$2.2M |
| Follets Island Habitat Acquisition | This project acquires approximately 300 acres of wetland and coastal habitat and conserves dune, coastal strand prairie, and marsh habitat. |  | \$2M |
| Mid-Coast Habitat Acquisition | This project acquires approximately 800 acres of habitat that provide a protective buffer to estuarine and bay waters from future land use changes. The land will be conveyed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be managed as part of the Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Matagorda County, Texas. |  | \$2M |
| Laguna Atascosa Habitat Acquisition | This project will acquire approximately 1,682 acres of beach, dune, and tidal habitats on South Padre Island, Texas. The land will be conveyed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be managed as part of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. |  | \$5.3M |
| PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES | | | |
| Freeport Artificial Reef Project | This project increases the amount of reef materials in an existing artificial reef site in the Gulf of Mexico, approximately 6 miles from Freeport, Texas. The project placed predesigned concrete pyramids in the remaining open portions of the 160-acre permitted area at a water depth of 55 feet. These improvements enhance recreational fishing and diving opportunities. Construction and placement of the concrete pyramids is complete. |  | \$2.2M |
| Galveston Island State Park Beach Redevelopment | The Galveston Island State Park Beach Redevelopment project includes building multi-use campsites, tent campsites, dune access boardwalks, equestrian facilities, and restroom and shower facilities on the beach side of the park. We have selected the design team and we expect the engineering and design to be completed in the spring of 2018. |  | \$10.7M |
| Matagorda Artificial Reef Project | This project creates a new artificial reef site within Texas state waters in the Gulf of Mexico, approximately 10 miles offshore of Matagorda County, at a water depth of 60 feet. The project enhances recreational fishing and diving opportunities. Construction and placement of the concrete pyramids is complete. |  | \$3.6M |
| Mid/Upper Texas Coast Artificial Reef Ship Reef Project | This project creates a new artificial reef site in waters of the Gulf of Mexico, about 67 miles south-southeast of Galveston by sinking a ship in waters that are approximately 135 feet deep. The project enhances recreational fishing and diving opportunities. We acquired a 371-foot long cargo carrier, the Kraken, which was cleaned and then sunk using best management practices in January 2017. |  | \$1.9M |
| Sea Rim State Park Improvements | Sea Rim State Park is located along the upper Texas coast in Jefferson County, southwest of Port Arthur. The project constructs two wildlife viewing platforms (Fence Lake and Willow Pond), one comfort station, and one fish cleaning shelter in the park. The engineering and design is underway. |  | \$210K |

 In progress  Monitoring  Complete