

Restoration Projects for Birds

The DWH oil spill injured resident and migratory species of birds in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida throughout a range of northern Gulf of Mexico habitats, including open water, barrier islands, beaches, bays, and marshes. To help restore and partially compensate for the loss of DWH-injured birds, the Regionwide TIG will implement a suite of restoration projects that span across multiple jurisdictions and coastal and nearshore habitats in the Regionwide TIG's Final RP/EA 1. These bird restoration projects are described in more detail below.



Photos. Piping plover and black skimmers. Credit: USFWS and FWC.

BIRD RESTORATION PROJECTS

In 2019, the Regionwide TIG compiled 5,149 project ideas submitted to the Trustee project portals and identified 632 that were specific to DWH-injured bird species. Following an extensive screening process, the Regionwide TIG selected three bird alternatives for implementation; see table below.

REGIONWIDE RESTORATION

Bird Restoration Projects in the Regionwide TIG Final RP/EA 1

Restoration Project	Project Description	Estimated Cost
Reducing Marine Debris Impacts on Birds and Sea Turtles (<i>joint project with the Sea Turtles Restoration Type</i>)	This project will reduce the threat and impacts of marine debris to DWH-injured bird and sea turtle species. This project will entail a coordinated effort among Trustees, non-governmental organizations, and other partners to compile data on marine debris to identify hotspots, conduct marine debris removal, and engage in debris prevention through public outreach.	\$3.5 million (\$7.0 million total project cost, split between Birds and Sea Turtles Restoration Types)
Conservation and Enhancement of Nesting and Foraging Habitat for Birds	This project will involve restoration activities across five sites to help meet regionwide bird habitat restoration goals: (1) Chandeleur Islands, LA; (2) Pilot Town, AL; (3) San Antonio Bay Bird Island, TX; (4) Matagorda Bay Bird Island (Chester Island), TX; and (5) Round Island, MS. The objective for this project is to conduct nesting and foraging habitat conservation through planning and implementation (e.g., acquisition, creation, restoration, and enhancement) activities, for the benefit of multiple bird species across a range of habitats.	\$22.5 million
Bird Nesting and Foraging Area Stewardship	This project will conserve and enhance bird nesting and foraging habitats in coastal Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. The activities will directly address anthropogenic stressors, protect and restore habitat, and reduce other stressors that impact birds that use beaches for nesting, rearing, foraging, resting and refueling during migratory stopovers and overwintering. It will also increase public awareness of bird conservation issues.	\$8.5 million

For additional details, please see the DWH Trustee website:
www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/regionwide

