

Grand Bay Land Acquisition and Habitat Management

Mississippi Restoration Area

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Grand Bay Land Acquisition and Habitat Management project will result in a combination of acquisition and habitat management within the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR), and Grand Bay Savanna Coastal Preserve boundaries in Jackson County, Mississippi (see map). Habitats within the 28,262 acre project area include coastal marsh, beach, freshwater marsh, pine savannas and flatwoods, forested freshwater scrub-shrub, and open water including tidal creeks and bayous.

Acquisition and preservation will include the purchase of land from willing sellers and preservation in perpetuity in order to protect natural habitats. Habitat management will include a combination of mechanical, chemical, and prescribed fire treatments to help restore habitats. These actions will help restore injuries to wetlands, coastal and nearshore habitats in Mississippi injured by the spill, as well as provide benefits to wading birds and other bird species injured by the spill. Acquisition and management will be implemented with available funding for up to 15 years.

Implementing Trustees and Project Partners

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of the Interior will be Implementing Trustees for the project. The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be project partners.

Leveraging

Funds from the RESTORE Council and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund will be expended in the project area.

ALLOCATION:

\$6,000,000

Chris Wells

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Environmental Quality
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