

# Mississippi Restoration Area



Becky Stowe with the Nature Conservancy

## WHAT WE DO

Our work in the Mississippi Restoration Area focuses on living and coastal marine resources such as sea turtles, marine mammals, birds and oysters. We also restore and conserve wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats. Restoration work also includes nonpoint source nutrient reduction to watersheds and includes partnerships to conserve habitats on federal lands. There will be opportunities to enhance recreational uses.



## WHO WE ARE

The Trustee representatives for the Mississippi Restoration Area are:







- Gary Rikard, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
- Brian Spears, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Dan Van Nostrand, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Homer Wilkes, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Troy Pierce, 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. We finalized and approved a restoration plan in July 2017 that includes three projects at a total of \$21.5 million.

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## RESTORATION PROJECTS

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ESTIMATED COST
<b>RESTORE WATER QUALITY</b>			
<b>Upper Pascagoula River Water Quality Enhancement</b>	This project in the Chunky-Okatibbee watersheds provides water quality improvements through the development and implementation of conservation plans and practices to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff into watersheds that affect coastal waters such as the Mississippi Sound. It provides outreach and technical assistance to voluntary landowners within a 20,000-acre area.		\$4M
<b>REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES</b>			
<b>Mississippi Artificial Reef Habitat Project</b>	This project provides valuable habitat for small crustaceans and mollusks, as well as juvenile shrimp, crab and oysters by restoring nearshore artificial reefs.		\$2.6M
<b>Mississippi Oyster Cultch Restoration Project</b>	This project enhances reefs within harvestable areas in the western Mississippi Sound. Crushed oyster shell and limestone placed over 1,430 acres of existing reefs provides a place for oyster larvae to attach and grow.		\$11M
<b>RESTORE AND CONSERVE HABITAT</b>			
<b>Hancock County Marsh Living Shoreline Project</b>	Located within the Hancock County Marsh Preserve, this project provides for construction of up to 5.9 miles of living shoreline and approximately 46 acres of marsh, as well as 46 acres of subtidal oyster reef in Heron Bay. Anticipated outcomes are shoreline erosion reduction, creation of habitat for oysters and other secondary productivity, and protection and creation of marsh habitat. Additionally, the project helps protect the Hancock County Marsh complex that includes freshwater, estuarine, marine, and submerged habitats.		\$50M
<b>Restoring Living Shorelines and Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries</b>	This project restores reef habitat through the placement of reefs and the use of living shoreline techniques including breakwaters in four bays in Mississippi. Over time, the breakwaters, intertidal and subtidal restoration areas will develop into living reefs that support marine reef habitat productivity. Breakwaters also reduce shoreline erosion and marsh loss.		\$30M
<b>Graveline Bay Land Acquisition and Management</b>	The project includes acquiring and managing up to 1,410 acres of land within the existing Graveline Bay Coastal Preserve and adjacent lands in Jackson County, Mississippi. Restoration measures to enhance habitat connectivity and to enhance diversity include invasive species management, prescribed fire, access restriction, debris removal and road repair and culvert placement. The primary objective is to protect important contiguous lands and waters in an effort to restore and manage those habitats for the benefit of wetlands, coastal and nearshore habitats and bird resources.		\$11.5M

 In progress  Monitoring  Complete

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	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ESTIMATED COST
<b>RESTORE AND CONSERVE HABITAT (cont.)</b>			
<b>Grand Bay Land Acquisition and Habitat Management</b>	This project includes acquiring up to 8,000 acres and managing up to 17,500 acres of land within the boundaries of the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Grand Bay Savanna Coastal Preserve in Jackson County, Mississippi. Restoration measures may include invasive species management and prescribed fire. The primary objective is to protect important contiguous lands and waters in an effort to restore and manage those habitats for the benefit of wetlands, coastal and nearshore habitats and bird resources.		\$6M
<b>PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES</b>			
<b>Pascagoula Beachfront Promenade Project</b>	Located immediately south of and parallel to Beach Boulevard on the Mississippi Sound, the project helps restore lost recreational uses of the shoreline by providing access to the beach. People access the beach using a 10-foot wide, 8,200-foot pathway that is lighted. Improvements may include features such as shower stations, fire pits, pavilions and other amenities that will be determined at final design.		\$3.8M
<b>Popp's Ferry Causeway Park Project</b>	Visitors to Popp's Ferry Causeway Park will be able to fish, crab and enjoy boardwalks and nature trails designed for viewing the waterfront and marshes. Improvements include roadway repair and lighting, a concession and bait stand, kayak rentals, construction of fishing piers and boardwalks. Also included is the construction of an interpretive center. The project gives people a way to enjoy what is known as the "best fishing spot without a boat in Biloxi, Miss."		\$4.7M
<b>Restoration Initiatives at the INFINITY Science Center Project</b>	This project increases appreciation and awareness of the Gulf of Mexico's natural resources by enhancing and expanding the state-of-the-art interactive science, education and interpretive research center. Visitors to the INFINITY Science Center, located in southern Hancock County, gain increased access to coastal estuarine habitats, wildlife viewing areas and educational features including marsh ecosystems, Gulf species and restoration monitoring.		\$10.4M

 In progress  Monitoring  Complete