

# Texas Restoration Area

July 2018



## 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 ACTIVITIES

In the past year, the Trustee representatives have overseen the continued engineering, design, and construction of restoration projects. Information on ongoing restoration, such as the Texas Rookery Islands and Sea Turtle Early Restoration projects, can be found in the table on the following page. A final restoration plan released in October 2017 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
<b>REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES</b>			
<b>Texas Rookery Islands</b>	This project restores and protects three rookery islands in Galveston Bay and one in East Matagorda Bay at the Big Boggy National Wildlife Refuge. Restoration increases the amount of available nesting habitat and enhances habitat quality for colonial waterbirds, such as pelicans, gulls, and herons. Islands are protected by expanding island size, establishing vegetation, and building protective features such as breakwaters. The State of Texas Trustees and the Department of the Interior are implementing this project together.		\$20M
<b>Sea Turtle Early Restoration Project</b>	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 the State of Texas Trustees are implementing this project together.		\$20M
<b>Oyster Restoration Engineering</b>	This project includes an initial alternatives analysis to identify best management practices for rehabilitating oyster reefs buried by sediment and for constructing intertidal oyster reefs within the Galveston Bay System. Results will be used to develop location-specific engineering, design, and environmental permitting documents to prepare one or more oyster restoration projects for implementation.		\$309,000
<b>RESTORE AND CONSERVE HABITAT</b>			
<b>Bird Island Cove Habitat Restoration Engineering</b>	This project includes engineering and design for the restoration and conservation of 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
<b>Essex Bayou Habitat Restoration Engineering</b>	This project includes engineering and design for the restoration and conservation of coastal and nearshore habitats. This project will enhance understanding of the factors that contribute to high salinities within Essex Bayou and the Slop Bowl Marsh system and develop solutions to create a more stable estuarine system.		\$372,000
<b>Dredged Material Planning for Wetland Restoration</b>	This project identifies priority locations and develops the engineering designs needed to obtain permits for the beneficial use of dredge material at eight marsh restoration sites along the Texas coast. The State of Texas Trustees and NOAA are implementing this project together.		\$1.9M
<b>McFaddin Beach and Dune Restoration</b>	This project places sand along approximately 17 miles of Gulf shoreline in northeastern Texas, providing important ecological benefits to the interior marshes of the 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 construction, monitoring, and/or planning activities.		\$15.8M
<b>Bessie Heights Wetland Restoration</b>	This project restores wetlands in the Bessie Heights Marsh located within the Lower Neches Wildlife Management Area in Orange County, Texas. It will restore coastal wetlands utilizing beneficial use dredged material from the federally managed Sabine-Neches Waterway and other sources. Up to 900 acres of intertidal marsh are expected to be restored.		\$4.9M
<b>Pierce Marsh Wetland Restoration</b>	This project beneficially uses dredged material to create up to 150 acres of viable, vegetated wetland habitat in West Galveston Bay for a variety of plants, fish, birds, and other wildlife.		\$3M

 In progress  Monitoring/O&M  Complete

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<b>RESTORE AND CONSERVE HABITAT (cont'd)</b>			
<b>Indian Point Shoreline Erosion Protection</b>	This project constructs 2,800 linear-feet of segmented breakwaters to protect 50 acres of critical seagrass, coastal marsh, lagoons, and associated upland habitats along the northwest shoreline of Corpus Christi Bay.		\$2.1M
<b>Bahia Grande Hydrologic Restoration</b>	This project enlarges and stabilizes a pilot channel that increases tidal flow into the Bahia Grande, a secondary bay system of the lower Laguna Madre, restoring the system's natural tidal exchange and creating habitat for a variety of fish, shellfish, and migratory waterfowl.		\$5M
<b>Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor Habitat Acquisition</b>	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. The Department of the Interior is implementing this project.		\$2.2M
<b>Follets Island Habitat Acquisition</b>	This project acquires approximately 300 acres of wetland and coastal habitat located between the beachfront and the Drum Bay system just north of Freeport. It also conserves dune, coastal strand prairie, and marsh habitats.		\$2M
<b>Mid-Coast Habitat Acquisition</b>	This project acquires approximately 800 acres of habitat near East Matagorda Bay, preserving an area that serves as a protective buffer to estuarine and bay waters. 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. The Department of the Interior is implementing this project.		\$2M
<b>Laguna Atascosa Habitat Acquisition</b>	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. The Department of the Interior is implementing this project.		\$5.3M
<b>PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES</b>			
<b>Freeport Artificial Reef Project</b>	This project enhanced an existing artificial reef in the Gulf of Mexico, approximately six miles from Freeport, Texas. Pre-designed concrete pyramids were placed in open areas of the 160-acre permitted reef site at a water depth of 55 feet, improving recreational fishing and diving opportunities. Construction and placement of the concrete pyramids is complete.		\$2.2M
<b>Galveston Island State Park Beach Redevelopment</b>	This 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. Planning activities for the new campground are underway. Pre-design activities, including a scope of work, site layout, and a general construction cost estimate are complete.		\$10.7M
<b>Matagorda Artificial Reef Project</b>	This project created a new artificial reef site in the Gulf of Mexico, approximately 10 miles from Matagorda County. Concrete pyramids were placed at a water depth of 60 feet, restoring oyster reef habitat and enhancing recreational fishing and diving opportunities. Construction and placement of the concrete pyramids is complete.		\$3.6M
<b>Mid/Upper Texas Coast Artificial Reef Ship Reef Project</b>	This project created a new artificial reef site in the Gulf of Mexico, about 67 miles south-southeast of Galveston. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department acquired a 371 linear-foot cargo carrier, the Kraken, which was cleaned and then sunk in waters approximately 135 feet deep. Best management practices were used. The project enhances recreational fishing and diving opportunities.		\$1.9M
<b>Sea Rim State Park Improvements</b>	This project constructs two wildlife viewing platforms (Fence Lake and Willow Pond), one comfort station, and one fish cleaning shelter at the Sea Rim State Park, located southwest of Port Arthur in Jefferson County.		\$210K

 In progress    Monitoring/O&M    Complete