Final Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #2: Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities

Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group

PLAN DESCRIPTION

The Final Recreational Use Plan selected projects to compensate for a portion of the lost recreational use in Louisiana caused by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. Included are project alternatives evaluated by the Louisiana Trustees which emphasize the creation and enhancement of:

- Recreational fishing infrastructure.
- Recreational fishing access or opportunity.
- Educational and outreach components promoting utilization of natural resources and encouraging stewardship for them.

ESTIMATED COSTS

This Final Recreational Use Plan reallocates $22 million previously approved for an Early Restoration project that was unable to be implemented as planned. More detailed information about projects and costs is below.

WHAT WE DO

Restoration work in the Louisiana Restoration Area focuses on restoring wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats, including habitats on federally managed lands; restoring water quality and habitat; replenishing and protecting wildlife and marine resources, such as sea turtles, dolphins, birds, and oysters; and providing and enhancing recreational opportunities.

Louisiana Final Recreational Use Plan

SELECTED RESTORATION PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST
Elmer's Island Access	This project will enhance the recreational access opportunities on Elmer's Island Wildlife Refuge by incorporating a suite of elements and services to improve upon existing conditions. The project will develop parking areas and kayak/boat launches, improve the aquatic hydrology through the installation of culverts under the access road, repair a washout to provide additional bank fishing areas, improve bird watching opportunities, operate a beach shuttle service, and provide for long term road repairs, as well as trash collection and removal services. This project will include final design and permitting, construction of project elements, long term operations and maintenance, as well as comprehensive monitoring activities.	$6M
Statewide Artificial Reefs	This project will enhance eleven artificial reef sites located across Louisiana's coastal basins. Specific reef sites include locations in Lake Pontchartrain (Lake Front and West End), Breton Sound (California Point), Barataria (Independence Island and Grand Isle 9), Terrebonne (Point Mast and Bird Island), Caillou Bay (Ship Shoal 26, aka the Pickets), Cote Blanche Bay (Rabbit Island), Vermilion Bay (Cypremort Point 2), and Calcasieu Lake (East Calcasieu). The project will enhance these existing reef sites through the addition of new reef materials, which will improve the available habitat for a variety of aquatic species, while also offering enhanced recreational fishing opportunities. This project will include deployment of reef materials at eleven reef sites, as well as comprehensive monitoring activities.	$6M
Lake Charles Science Center and Educational Complex	This project will create a Science Center and Educational Complex (SCEC) in Lake Charles. The SCEC project will establish a public visitor center featuring an aquatic animal touch tank, multiple display aquaria, and interactive educational exhibits. Additionally, the SCEC project will include a youth fishing pond and covered pavilion, as well as a walking trail with accompanying outdoor educational components and a hunter safety range. This project will include final design and permitting, construction of project elements, long term operations and maintenance, as well as comprehensive monitoring activities.	$7M
Island Road Piers	This project will develop a series of safe road-side pullover and parking areas with adjoining fishing piers on Island Road in the Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area (PACWMA). Island Road is a narrow two lane road on the southern border of PACWMA connecting Highway 665 to the Isle de Jean Charles. This road is heavily utilized by the public for recreational fishing, with roadside parking often obstructing traffic. This project will develop a series of five parking areas and recreational fishing access points on Island Road, including final design and permitting, construction of project elements, long term operations and maintenance, as well as comprehensive monitoring activities.	$3M