



Open Ocean Restoration Area

Seabird Nesting Colony Protection and Enhancements at Dry Tortugas National Park (*preferred*)



Masked booby
Photo by Judd Paterson, NPS



Magnificent frigatebird
NPS



Brown noddy
Photo by Judd Patterson, NPS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project would evaluate historic and current population sizes of nesting seabird colonies in Dry Tortugas National Park, Florida, to inform restoration actions that could include vegetation management, social attraction, and biosecurity measures. This project would be conducted in two phases. Phase 1 consists of compiling existing monitoring data, conducting additional seabird monitoring, and enhancing existing biosecurity measures. Phase 2 consists of expanding existing or creating new seabird nesting colonies and vegetation management.

This project, estimated to cost \$1.2 million, would be implemented over approximately 5 years, with up to 3 years of additional post-implementation monitoring.

RESTORATION TYPE: Birds

Project Benefits

- Increase seabird nesting success and productivity
- Prevent (re)introduction of invasive species
- Enhance habitat quality
- Target Species:
 - Bridled tern
 - Brown noddy
 - Magnificent frigatebird
 - Masked booby



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RESTORATION TECHNIQUES



Vegetation Management



Biosecurity



Social Attraction

Implementation of restoration techniques in Phase 2 would be informed by baseline monitoring and data aggregation completed in Phase I. In Phase 2, vegetation management activities may include removal of invasive species and planting of native species that increase nesting habitat (e.g., bushes and trees). Existing seabird nesting colonies would be enhanced, and new colonies may be established, by attracting breeding adults to the restoration sites using social attraction tools (e.g., bird and egg decoys, mirrors, and sound systems). Finally, existing biosecurity measures would be augmented to maximize the benefits of a recent rat eradication and prevent the (re)introduction of other invasive species (e.g., placement of rodenticide bait stations).

Implementing Trustee: U.S. Department of the Interior, in partnership with the National Park Service

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
 Contact the Open Ocean TIG
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 or visit
www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/open-ocean

