

FLORIDA GULF OF MEXICO RESTORATION PROJECT SUBMITTAL FORM

Form Purpose and Instructions:

- To assist the project proposal and review process, please complete this Submittal Form. Completion of the Form will contribute to the appropriate information being completely and accurately submitted for each project.
- Take as much space as needed for each question, but please keep responses as focused as possible. It may assist you to review all the questions before addressing any one question.
- Please submit one Form per project, if you have multiple projects -please submit one Form for each project.
- Please submit completed Forms to Restoration.Projects@dep.state.fl.us. Once your Form is successfully submitted, you will receive a confirmation email from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Project Name: Egmont Key Beach Renourishment and Habitat Restoration

Contact Information *(Include at least one name, phone number, email address, and organization name if applicable):*

Dave Howard

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Save Egmont Key

Project Location *(Include a map, if possible, and the city, county, longitude/latitude, and watershed):*

lat: 27.591459, long: -82.762904

St. Petersburg, FL

Project Description *(Describe all aspects of the project):*

Egmont Key was established as a National Wildlife Refuge in 1974 in an effort to provide quality habitat for wildlife as well as to protect historic structures of State and National significance. To date, Egmont Key is host to over 110 species of nesting, wintering, and migrating birds threatened by development and disturbance. It is also an important stopover and wintering site for the endangered piping plover, a nesting site for the endangered loggerhead sea turtle, as well as over 33,000 nesting pairs of brown pelicans, royal and sandwich terns, American oystercatchers, and black skimmers among other sea birds. The Refuge is also host to State listed species such as the gopher tortoise, and other Species of Special Concern. In a similar aspect, Egmont Key is evidence of the rich cultural history of the area. It has played a crucial role during the Third Seminole War, The Civil War, and it is better known for its 150 year old lighthouse, and Fort Dade - a military post developed in lieu of the Spanish-American war. It has been designated as a Florida State Cultural Resources Site, as well as listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

Despite protection efforts by Federal, State, and local support groups, the island bears continuous erosion that threatens the availability and integrity of the habitats and structures the Refuge strive to protect. Of its original 529 acres surveyed back in 1877, only approximately 280 acres still remain. Two of the five original batteries, constructed in 1898 as part of Fort Dade, now stand underwater and the remaining batteries threatened by the same fate. The erosion of Egmont Key will continually displace an approximate 33,000 nesting pairs of birds, an approximate 50 sea turtle nests, the highest concentration of gopher tortoises in the State of Florida, and countless species of migrating birds in an area with few undisturbed environments. The erosion of the island will also impact the local recreation community as it will also displace an estimated 165,000 boaters and visitors that enjoy Egmont Key each year.

A lesson learned is that of Passage key NWR - located just over a mile South of Egmont Key - slowly eroding down to a meandering sand bar now only exposed during low tides. The disappearance of Passage Key triggered immediate concerns regarding the fate of Egmont Key. A strong partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) has allowed the beneficial use of dredge material to be "dumped" on Egmont Key as it becomes available. Still, this has shown to be short-lived fix as it isn't readily available in the amounts and sand quality that is needed to protect the 1.5 mile shoreline that is eroding.

In 2004, the USACOE were mandated by Congress to develop a shoreline stabilization feasibility study and developed a draft feasibility report for the Egmont Key Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project in 2008. This 50-year plan proposes the construction of a sheet pile wall and beach re-nourishment on a 7-year rotation as an avenue to mitigate sand loss. A lack of sand and funds has kept the project from implementation; according to USACOE policy (ER 1105-2-100, paragraph 3-4 b(6)(a)), any shore protection work to lands under the jurisdiction of another Federal agency shall be completed upon request from the agency and on a reimbursable basis. The initial 7-year project cost is budgeted at an estimated \$16 million dollars.

Despite the setbacks, the 2013-14 scheduled maintenance dredging of the Egmont channel has re-sparked the interest of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project by the "Save Egmont Key Initiative" - led by a group of 23 partnering agencies and non-profits. Over 1 million cubic yards of good quality dredge material will become available to protect and restore washed-away beach habitat at Egmont Key. Additionally, \$10 million dollars in money savings can be attained for the initial project cost of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Plan IF done in conjunction with the Egmont Channel dredging scheduled in early 2014. As such we seek the additional \$6 million dollars in order to implement the initial phase of the Egmont Key Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project.

Estimated Project Costs *(Describe the estimated costs of the project, including any assumptions for contingency and ongoing operations/maintenance. Identify other secured funding sources such as matching funds, in-kind contributions or state/federal dollars. In addition, if possible, complete and submit the Cost Appendix Sheet associated with this Form):*

Project Planning Cost Estimate: \$500,000

Project Implementation Cost Estimate: \$14,500,000

Project Administration & Oversight Cost Estimate: \$1,000,000

Project Monitoring Cost Estimate: Cost estimate included in Administration and Oversight

Project Operations & Maintenance: Cost estimate included in Implementation

Preliminary Project Cost Estimate: \$16 million dollars

Other Funding *(Indicate if the project is submitted for any potential funding or if it may be used to leverage additional funding, if so please describe the funding source [e.g. State/Federal Grants]):*

\$10 million dollars in money savings can be attained for the initial project cost of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Plan IF done in conjunction with the Egmont Channel dredging scheduled in early 2014. As such we seek the additional \$6 million dollars in order to implement the initial phase of the Egmont Key Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project.

Technical Feasibility *(Describe the technologies involved and any relevant past experience or proven success with similar projects):*

Likelihood of success is almost 100% guaranteed if the money is on time to be conducted in coordination with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredging of the Egmont Channel.

Environmental Benefits *(Describe the nature, magnitude, and timing of any environmental benefits attributable to the project. If possible, describe potential environmental performance measures [e.g. pollutant reduction]. Please address any potential environmental impacts associated with implementing or maintaining the project [e.g. loss of a habitat or conversion of habitat from one type to another during implementation]):*

One of the main and most significant benefits of the project would be the availability of beach habitat for nesting sea turtles and sea birds. Egmont Key has lost nearly half of its width due to erosion therefore diminishing the available beach habitat for wildlife and altering the coastal berm vegetation affected by salt intrusion. A visible sign of a decreasing and low quality habitat, for instance, is the presence of an escarpment that present a challenge for nesting loggerhead sea turtles. Sea turtles cannot overcome the barrier and nest at the base of such escarpment. Without constant monitoring and relocation, these nests are at risk of washing away or inundation. Similarly, dying cabbage palms due to salt intrusion eventually fall and need to be physically removed to open up the beach for sea turtles. Large logs or stumps may deter sea turtles from finding a suitable nesting spot. Additionally, the project would provide suitable nesting habitat for black skimmers, American oystercatchers, royal, and sandwich terns, etc.

The proposed project will protect the island from the potentially breaching and eroding away, thus, protecting existing wildlife and nesting colonies, and cultural resources. Furthermore, it will create new beach habitat that has been eroded, and enhance habitat availability.

Economic and Social Benefits *(Describe the economic and social benefits including those related to the project's improved ecosystem services and any estimates on jobs created or preserved):*

Egmont Key hosts about 200,000 visitors every year. Arriving by private boat and public ferry, they enjoy and learn about Egmont's pristine natural environment and its key place in our nation's and Tampa Bay's cultural and military history.

Established as a National Wildlife Refuge in 1974, it protects a diverse community of animals and plants, many of which are either threatened or endangered. It is an essential stopover for migrating and wintering birds, gopher tortoises and box turtles, and endangered loggerhead sea turtles.

Egmont Key serves as the home base for the professional vessel pilots who travel by boat from the island to huge commercial ships, which they captain into Tampa Bay and the Port of Tampa. The loss of Egmont Key would significantly increase the time and expense needed to support the pilots and their efforts to successfully navigate the bay.

Community Resilience *(Describe if the project assists Florida's ability to anticipate, withstand, or recover from hazards or threats [e.g. hurricane preparedness, establishing living shorelines]):*

This project will help prevent the further erosion of the Egmont Key beaches and create new beach habitat and enhance habitat availability.. This will help Egmont key withstand the effects of hurricanes and preserve the historical significance.

Conflicts or Complements to Existing Efforts *(Describe any ongoing activities in the project implementation area, if the project is part of another plan, and why the project does or does not interfere with that work. Please consider how the project may complement existing local, regional, and state efforts/plans/objectives):*

There are currently no ongoing activities in the project implementation area that would interfere with the project work.

Complies with Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Laws/Regulations *(Describe any concerns or potential conflicts):*

This project complies with all Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Laws/Regulations.

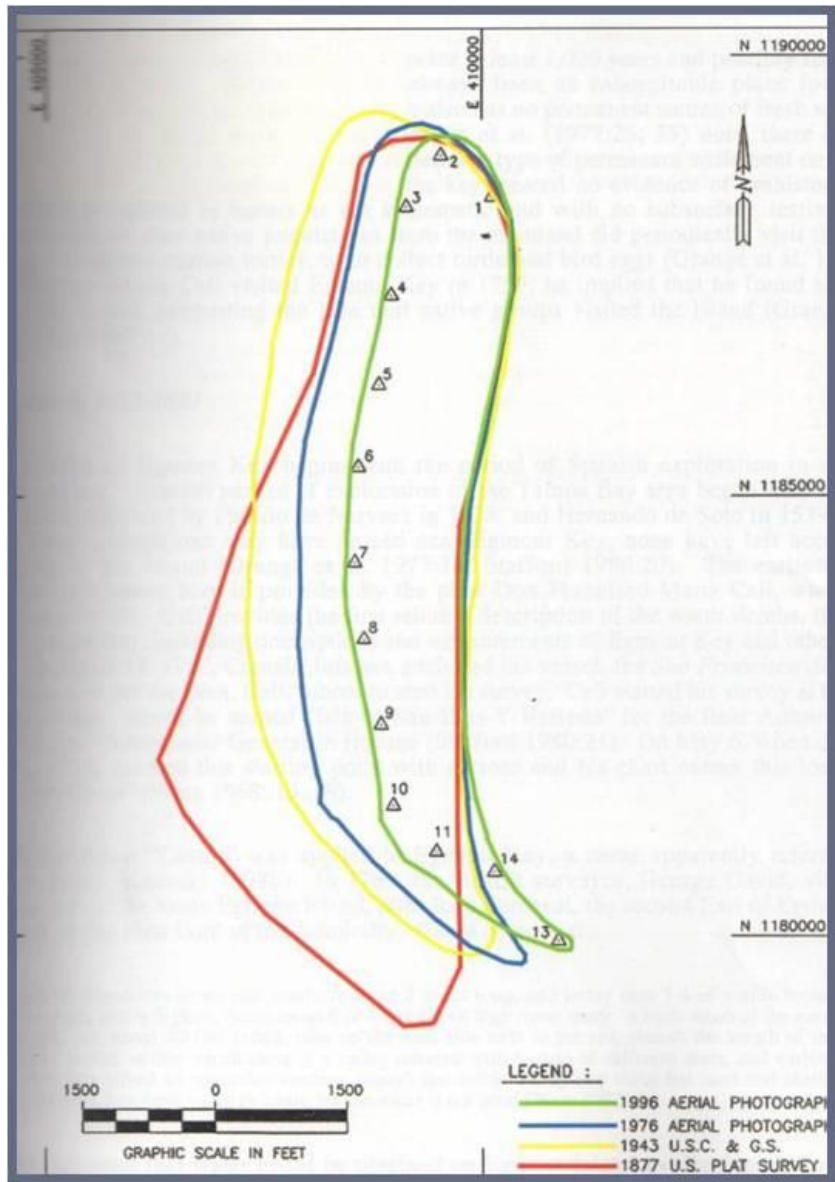
Readiness for Implementation *(Describe if the project has had any design or permitting work started or completed [attach permits or design work]. Please address any issues that may delay start or finish of the project):*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were mandated by Congress to develop a shoreline stabilization feasibility study and developed a draft feasibility report for the Egmont Key Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project in 2008. This 50-year plan proposes the construction of a sheet pile wall and beach re-nourishment on a 7-year rotation as an avenue to mitigate sand loss. A lack of sand and funds has kept the project from implementation

Public Acceptance *(Describe any known or potential public approval or opposition to the project):*

This project would be beneficial to the public with increased beach access for recreation activities. The island currently attracts over 200,000 visitors each year to enjoy the beautiful beaches and historical significance and it would preserve the island for future generations. It would also be beneficial to bird watchers with the availability of enhanced habitat for wildlife species.

Additional Information you wish to provide *(Please include any maps, designs, drawings, photos, or background resources that may assist in completely and accurately understanding the project):*



Eroding Egmont Key shoreline. Image extracted from UACOE Egmont Key Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project (draft 2008).

Cost Appendix Sheet	
Cost Item	Cost Estimate
Planning	
Contracts	
Feasibility	
Engineering, Design, Land Rights, & Bid Prep	480000
Construction Management	862076
Post Construction Beach Fill Monitoring Survey	144000
Administration, Overhead, and Indirect	10000
Other	
Planning Subtotal:	1496076
Construction	
Contracts	
Administration & Mobilization/Demobilization	1773917
Other (Beach Nourishment/Site Clearing and Sheetpile)	12561057
Construction Subtotal:	14334974
Monitoring	
Contracts	
Data Collection	
Monitoring Administration	
Other	
Monitoring Subtotal:	0
Project Cost	
Supervision	
Subtotal:	15831050
Contingency	
TOTAL:	15831050

Estimated Costs by Year	
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	
Year 5	
Year 6	