

# FLORIDA GULF OF MEXICO RESTORATION PROJECT SUBMITTAL FORM

Submit by Email

## 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.
- If you have multiple projects – please submit one Form for each project.
- When you have completed the form hit the submit button in the upper right hand corner. Once your Form is successfully submitted, you will receive a confirmation email from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- Submit all back-up maps, information, etc. to [Restoration.Projects@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Restoration.Projects@dep.state.fl.us)
- To submit updated information, please fill out this form and update fields as needed.

All of the following are **Required Fields** for project updates

New Project



Update to Previous Submittal



Project #

Project Name

Deer Island Conservation

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

George Foster, managing member, Gilligan's Island, LLC, 352-279-7368,  
[gfoster@creativeenvironmental.com](mailto:gfoster@creativeenvironmental.com)

## **Project Location:**

*(Include a map, if possible, and the city, county, watershed, longitude/latitude dec.deg, Parcel # if Applicable)*

Deer Island is 8 miles north of Cedar Key and 8 miles south of Suwannee in the Gulf of Mexico, located at 29 degrees 14 minutes 08 seconds N latitude and 83 degrees 04 minutes 45 seconds W longitude, Levy Co. parcel 0005300000. The property is within the Big Bend Aquatic Seagrass Preserve and adjoins the Lower Suwannee Wildlife Refuge.

## **Project Description:**

*(Describe all aspects of the project)*

Purchase a Conservation Easement from the owner of Deer Island or purchase the island outright (fee simple). Deer Island is barrier island approximately one mile offshore with 3/8 mile long sandy beach facing the open Gulf. The 90 acre tract includes approximately 45 acres of sovereign submerged land, 22.5 acres of wetland, and 22.5 acres of upland. It is 14 ft above sea level in places and the uplands are characterized by oaks, cedars, palms and pines and the understory by palmetto, coontie, wild coffee and much more. Sea turtles nest on the beach. Eastern diamondbacks, Florida king snakes, scarlet king snakes, and gray rat snakes are common on the island. The island is underlain by a lens of fresh groundwater that yields

**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)*

Anticipated cost of the project is \$500,000 (conservation easement with some owner reservations) to \$2,000,000 (outright purchase). Owner is amenable to either approach.

**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])*

Unknown.

**Technical Feasibility:**

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

Conservation easements and land acquisition projects are proven methods of protecting environmentally sensitive lands.

**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)*

Unknown

Unknown

**Complies with Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Laws/Regulations:**

*(Describe any concerns or potential conflicts)*

No concerns or conflicts.

**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)*

Project is ready to go.

**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])*

Per the Levy County comprehensive plan, one house may be constructed, without size limitation, on each barrier island. Deer Island is actually three separate islands, so three houses are permitted. Each house would be served by an onsite septic tank system and by well water. The fully wooded islands could also be fully cleared and planted with grass. Runoff and pollution (from septic tank leachate, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) would be prevented by protecting the island. Reduction in the discharge of fresh groundwater to the surrounding waters would also be prevented by protecting the island. Habitat for endangered species would be preserved by protecting the island.

Per the Levy County comprehensive plan, one house may be constructed, without size limitation, on each barrier island. Deer Island is actually three separate islands, so three houses are permitted. Each house would be served by an onsite septic tank system and by well water. The fully wooded islands could also be fully cleared and planted with grass. Runoff

**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)*

Protecting the quality of the surrounding Gulf waters will insure the long-term livelihoods of the commercial fisherman.

**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])*

Barrier islands protect the shoreline from storm surges that occur during hurricanes.

**Public Acceptance:**

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

Conservation of Deer Island is believed to have widespread public support.

**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. If these are too large to attach here, please email them to

[Restoration.Projects@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Restoration.Projects@dep.state.fl.us)

Additional information submitted to the email address above.

## Cost Appendix Sheet

### Cost Item

### Cost Estimate

#### Planning

|                                             |  |
|---------------------------------------------|--|
| Contracts                                   |  |
| Feasibility                                 |  |
| Engineering, Design, Land Rights & Bid Prep |  |
| Restoration Plan                            |  |
| Site Visits & Cost of Site Selection        |  |
| Administration, Overhead and Indirect       |  |
| Other                                       |  |
| Planning Subtotal:                          |  |

#### Construction

|                                              |  |
|----------------------------------------------|--|
| Contracts                                    |  |
| Administration & Mobilization/Demobilization |  |
| Other                                        |  |
| Construction Subtotal:                       |  |

#### Monitoring

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Contracts                 |  |
| Data Collection           |  |
| Monitoring Administration |  |
| Other                     |  |
| Monitoring Subtotal:      |  |

#### Project Cost

|                                                               |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Supervision                                                   |  |
| Subtotal:                                                     |  |
| Contingency (traditionally calculated at 10% of the subtotal) |  |
| TOTAL:                                                        |  |

**Estimated Costs by Year**

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Year 1 |  |
| Year 2 |  |
| Year 3 |  |
| Year 4 |  |
| Year 5 |  |
| Year 6 |  |