



Gulf of Mexico Recovery

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LAND CONSERVATION



National
Wildlife Refuge
Association



Recovering Gulf Coast Fish and Wildlife by Allocating Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Funding to Land Acquisition at National Wildlife Refuges, National Estuarine Research Reserves and State Wildlife Conservation Lands

Immediately after the explosion of the BP Deepwater Horizon drilling rig, federal and state agencies began to implement a process to identify the extent of damages caused to public trust resources. This process is called the Natural Resource Damage Assessment or NRDA, and an established council of federal and state agency trustees is now quantifying resource injuries and identifying how to rehabilitate, restore or acquire equivalent natural resources affected by the oil spill. The process of quantifying those damages and developing a public restoration plan is expected to take many years, but agencies working in cooperation with BP may be able to make ‘early releases’ of BP damage funds if they agree on priority restoration, rehabilitation and replacement projects to offset resources known to be affected by the spill.

We believe that the acquisition of equivalent natural resources through land purchase and acquisition—i.e. replacement—should be a priority for use of NRDA funds that are expected to be released in late 2010. Acquisition of coastal marshes, beaches, marine and estuarine habitat and nearby uplands provides one of the clearest ways to offset damages from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill and provide a permanent benefit to the American people. Along the Gulf coast from Texas to Florida, there are high-value coastal lands that have been identified by federal and state agencies as priorities for protection. These lands provide habitat for the wildlife most affected by this oil spill. This includes nesting habitat for sea turtles and terns, breeding and foraging sites for threatened piping

plovers and other shorebirds, nesting and rookery habitat for waders and waterbirds, and extensive coastal marine habitats important to recreation and commercial fish species affected by the spill.

In particular, the highest priority sites for acquisition should be land that can be acquired as additions to existing national wildlife refuges or state parks, reserves and wildlife management areas. In some places, these refuges and parks suffered extensive damage as a result of the spill, but in other coastal areas they experienced less damage. These undamaged lands and waters are some of the best locations in which to replace natural resources and ecosystem services damaged in other areas and that cannot be immediately or effectively restored. The availability of funding from this oil spill presents a unique opportunity to acquire some of the last remaining unprotected properties within wildlife refuge acquisition boundaries and to connect and buffer extensive areas of already protected coastal habitat.

The National Wildlife Refuge System protects 1.4 million acres of some of the most important ecological resources in the Gulf region. The 38 wildlife refuges along the Gulf of Mexico include some of America’s most extensive coastal salt marshes, barrier islands, mangrove swamps, and pristine beaches. These diverse habitats support a wide range of wildlife, from colonies of tens of thousands of nesting seabirds and pelicans to endangered sea turtles that arrive each year by the hundreds to lay their eggs on protected beaches. Approximately 22 percent of

the total acreage approved for acquisition within these refuges remains unprotected.

This report provides a table of opportunities for immediate acquisition—properties within and adjacent to national wildlife refuges along the Gulf of Mexico, as well as areas important for state acquisition in Florida. Protecting these properties as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System and state reserves will serve as an important step toward compensating the public for the damage done to Gulf ecosystems as a result of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The list of priority acquisitions contained in this report was compiled from project leaders and National Wildlife Refuge Managers, the land acquisition program at the Florida Wildlife Commission, project partners at The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land and The Conservation Fund, and other sources. It is important to note that this list is not comprehensive—these are simply the identifiable projects that could be gathered quickly. The list does not include any data on potential state priorities for

acquisition in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi, and we would welcome and encourage additional funding for high priority coastal acquisitions that are important to these states.

In total, these opportunities represent the protection of 110,000 acres of the highest priority habitats that will directly benefit the future of multiple marine and terrestrial species that were significantly impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill as well as many of the diverse ecosystems that were harmed by the spill. The combined cost of the highest priority land and water acquisitions identified in this report is approximately \$300 million and we've identified another \$500 million in potential projects in Florida and Louisiana that may also be a priority for consideration.

We urge NRDA Trustees to act on this report and to designate many of the acquisition priorities identified in this report as projects that will receive NRDA settlement funding. For more information about the contents of this report, please contact:

Julie Kates

Defenders of Wildlife

Refuge Associate, Federal Lands Program

202-772-3271

jkates@defenders.org

Tim Male

Defenders of Wildlife

Vice President of Conservation Policy

(202) 772-3227

tmale@defenders.org

David Houghton

National Wildlife Refuge Association

Vice President, Conservation Programs

(603) 831-0920

dhoughton@refugeassociation.org



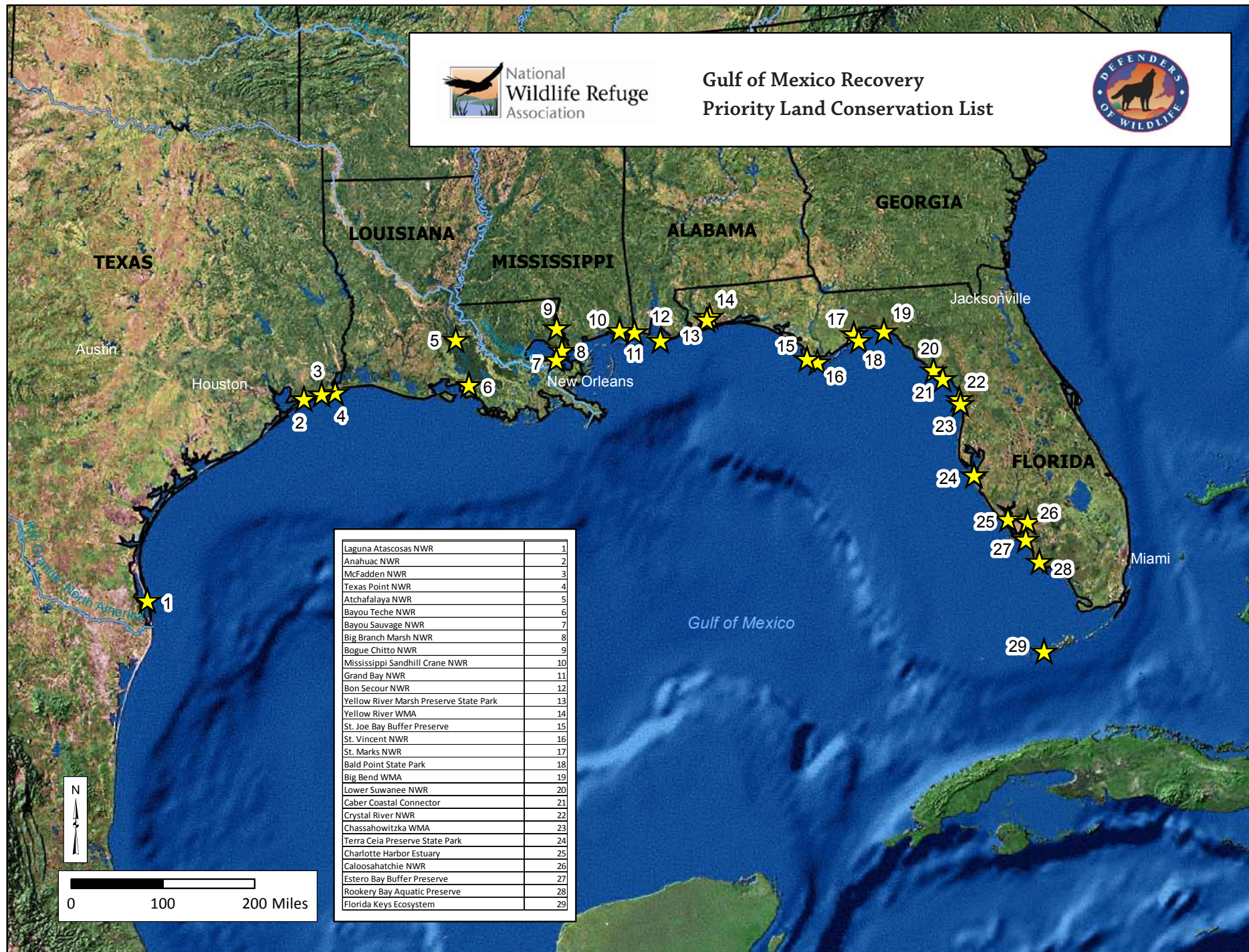
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Gulf of Mexico Recovery Priority Land Conservation List



Map Date: September 5, 2010

Gulf of Mexico Priority Land Conservation List

LOUISIANA



Brown Pelican, FWS | Roseate Spoonbill, Theresa Baldwin



Priority refuges: 4

Acquisition Projects: 19

Total Acres: 13,000

Total Price: \$51 million

SPOTLIGHT ACQUISITION

BAILEY TRACT

The Bailey tract is a 5,000-acre inholding at Bayou Teche NWR. The parcel is characterized by diverse habitat comprised of bottomland hardwoods and cyprus-gum forests bordering on saltmarsh, and supports a healthy population of the federally threatened Louisiana black bear. Bailey is a high priority because of its size and for the nesting and migratory habitat it provides for multiple spill-affected species, including reddish egret, roseate spoonbill, wood stork, great egret, snowy egret and bald eagle.

Refuge: Bayou Teche NWR

Key Features: Diversity of habitat types; multiple spill-affected species

Key Species: Brown pelican, Louisiana Black Bear

Parcel Size: 5,000 acres

Parcel Price: \$5 million

NRDA LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITY LIST—LOUISIANA

First Tier Acquisition Projects

Protected Area	Parcel Name	Price	Agency	Parcel Description
Bayou Teche NWR	Bailey	\$5 million	FWS	• 5,000 acres • Documented T & E species: brown pelican, American alligators, laughing gull, Louisiana black bear • Other documented spill-affected species: reddish egret, wood stork, roseate spoonbill, great egret, snowy egret, bald eagles, migrating neotropical songbirds, wading birds, shore birds
Bayou Sauvage NWR	Big Oak Island	\$1.5 million	FWS	• 500 acres • Other documented spill-affected species: reddish egret, wood stork, brown pelican, roseate spoonbill, great egret, snowy egret, bald eagles, migrating neotropical songbirds, wading birds, shore birds • Designated release site for species rehabilitated from spill damage
Bayou Sauvage NWR	Cummings	\$400,000	FWS	• 145 acres • Brown pelican, American alligator • Shore birds, wading birds, neotropical songbirds
Bayou Sauvage NWR	Audubon	\$150,000	FWS	• Designated release site for species rehabilitated from spill damage
Big Branch Marsh NWR	Jones	\$1.55 million	FWS	• 80 acres • Resident brown pelicans • Shore and wading birds • Strong political support from Senator Landreau
Big Branch Marsh NWR	Mentab	\$1.2 million	FWS	• 300 acres • Brown pelican, red-cockaded woodpecker, reddish egret, wood stork, roseate spoonbill, great egret, snowy egret • Marine nursery
Big Branch Marsh NWR	McCrae	\$360,000	FWS	• 720 acres • Brown pelican, red-cockaded woodpecker, reddish egret, wood stork, roseate spoonbill, great egret, snowy egret • Marine nursery

NRDA LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITY LIST—LOUISIANA

Protected Area	Parcel Name	Price	Agency	Parcel Description
Big Branch Marsh NWR	Benjamin/Dunbar	\$640,000	FWS	• 160 acres • Brown pelican, red-cockaded woodpecker, reddish egret, wood stork, roseate spoonbill, great egret, snowy egret • Marine nursery
Big Branch Marsh NWR	Lindsey	\$200,000	FWS	• 26 acres • Brown pelican, red-cockaded woodpecker, reddish egret, wood stork, roseate spoonbill, great egret, snowy egret • Marine nursery
Big Branch Marsh NWR	Log Bayou	\$72,000	FWS	• 160 acres • Marine nursery
Big Branch Marsh NWR	Bopp	\$162,000	FWS	• 360 acres • Brown pelicans, roseate spoonbill, wood stork • Marine nursery
Big Branch Marsh NWR	Blossman	\$260,000	FWS	• 100 acres • Brown pelicans, roseate spoonbills, great egret, snowy egret, reddish egret • Marine nursery
Big Branch Marsh NWR	Wood	\$108,000	FWS	• 36 acres • Wood stork

NRDA LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITY LIST—LOUISIANA

Second Tier Acquisition Projects

Protected Area	Parcel Name	Price	Agency	Parcel Description
Atchafalaya NWR	Wilbert	\$15 million	FWS	• 5,000 acres • Louisiana black bear, American alligator, wood stork, egrets, spoonbill
Atchafalaya NWR	Martin	\$12 million	FWS	• 240 acres • Wood stork, egrets, spoonbills, laughing gull • Mangrove swamp
Atchafalaya NWR	Courville	\$2 million	FWS	• 200 acres • Wading birds • Mangrove swamp • Habitat for T & E species: Louisiana black bear
Atchafalaya NWR	Marionneaux	\$10 million	FWS	• 240 acres • Wood storks, egrets, and spoonbills • Mangrove swamp • Habitat for T & E species: Louisiana black bear
Bayou Sauvage NWR	Brazalier Carter	\$40,000	FWS	• Small critical inholding • Habitat for neotropical songbirds, laughing gulls, and wading birds
Bayou Sauvage NWR	Powers Junction	\$150,000	FWS	• 3 acres • Completes parcel access between FWS holdings in Southeast Louisiana Refuge Complex

Gulf of Mexico Priority Land Conservation List

FLORIDA



Reddish Egret, Michael Wolf | Brown Pelican, John McCormack

Priority Refuges: 5

State Project Areas: 12

Combined Projects: 20

Total Acres: 197,500

Total Price: \$728 million

SPOTLIGHT ACQUISITION

ST. JOE BAY

St. Joe Bay is one of the relatively pristine bay ecosystems in Florida and this 3,263-acre set of properties in Gulf County would protect beach dune and estuarine salt marshes that are a major spawning and nursery ground for commercial fish and sea turtles. Documented species on the properties that have been affected by the oil spill include green and loggerhead sea turtle, Gulf sturgeon, nesting Wilson's plover, and American oystercatcher. The parcel includes foraging habitat for skimmers, royal terns, laughing gulls, reddish egrets, brown pelicans and bottlenose dolphins and is also an important wintering area for piping plover.

Refuge: St. Vincent NWR

Key Features: Beach dune, estuarine coastal salt marsh, baygall, flatwood and scrub habitat.

Key species: Piping plover, green and loggerhead sea turtles, gulf sturgeon

Parcel Size: 3,263 acres

Estimated Purchase Price: \$22.2 million

NRDA LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITY LIST —FLORIDA

First Tier Acquisition Projects

Protected Area	Parcel Name	Price	Agency	Parcel Description
St. Marks NWR	Lenark Reef	\$200,000	FWS	• 8.5 acres • Important habitat for nesting terns, skimmers, brown pelicans, piping plover, American oystercatcher, royal terns, and laughing gulls • Supports bird species affected by the oil spill
St. Marks NWR	St. Marks River	\$4.7 million	FWS	• 1,355 acres • On St. Marks River • Juncus and Spartina marsh along ¾ mile of riverbank, hydric hardwood hummock, several hundred acres pine flatwoods restorable to longleaf pine flatwoods • Protects habitat for egrets, woodstorks, reddish egret, royal terns
St. Joe Bay State Buffer Preserve near St. Vincent NWR	Multiple parcels; St. Joe Bay Buffer FFP	\$22.2 million	State of Florida	• 3,263 acres • Coastal wetlands in one of most pristine bay ecosystems in Florida • Habitat for documented T & E species: piping plover, green and loggerhead sea turtles, gulf sturgeon • Habitats include: beach dune, estuarine coastal salt marsh, baygall, flatwoods, scrub • St. Joe Bay marshes and sea grasses are major spawning and nursery grounds
St. Vincent NWR	Lake Wimico	\$134 million	FWS	• 67,000 acres • Connects Lake Wimico to St. Vincent Sound; keystone piece in the completion of the NWR • Hot spot of regional biodiversity • Protection of 2 major estuarine systems would provide significant water quality benefits to oyster and scallop populations in Apalachicola and St. Joseph's Bays • Diverse habitat for resident, migrating and nesting spill-affected species

NRDA LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITY LIST —FLORIDA

Protected Area	Parcel Name	Price	Agency	Parcel Description
Bald Point State Park	Dickerson Bay-Bald Point FFP	\$30.1 million	State of Florida	• 4,464 acres • Protects three areas of bay front uplands and coastal wetlands on Dickerson, Levy and Ochlocknee Bays • Foraging habitat for adult and juvenile loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, green and other sea turtles • Habitats include beach dune, estuarine salt marsh, salt flats, tidal creeks and depression marshes • Connectivity between St. Marks NWR, Alligator Harbor Aquatic Preserve and Bald Point State Park
St. Vincent NWR	St. Vincent Is. Access	\$1.3 million	FWS	• 5 acres • Provides access to St. Vincent Island • Maritime liveoak vegetation important to migrating neotropical birds
Big Bend Wildlife Management Area	Big Bend FFP	\$9.6 million	State of Florida	• 2,907 acres • Protects pristine coastal wetlands near Steinhatchee River • Marine forest and coastal barrier and coastal wetlands • Manatee, gulf salt marsh snake, piping plover, American oystercatcher, whooping crane, wood stork, sandhill crane, snowy egret, black skimmers, great and little blue herons, osprey, northern harrier, and American coot • Buffers Big Bend Aquatic Preserve sea grass beds
Crystal River NWR	Paradise Point	\$2.4 million	FWS	• 2.17 acres • Manatee, bottlenose dolphin, laughing gull, brown pelican • Adjacent to canal into Three Sisters Springs • Site of USGS manatee health assessments – capturing and tagging • Potential USGS/FWS manatee research facility

NRDA LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITY LIST —FLORIDA

Protected Area	Parcel Name	Price	Agency	Parcel Description
Caber Coastal Connector Area	Caber Coastal Connector FFP	\$38.8 million	State of Florida	• 7,052 acres • Habitat for salt marsh vole, black skimmer, little blue heron, snowy egret, American coot and other waterbirds and shorebirds. • Protects 2 miles of coastline • Mix of tidal marshes, basin swamps, dome swamps, basin marshes, hydric hammocks, mesic and wet flatwoods, xeric hammocks and pine plantations • Connectivity between Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys NWRs
Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area	Chassahowitzka FFP	\$31.6 million	State of Florida	• 5,746 acres • One of the state's few coastal natural areas with both freshwater and tidal saltwater communities intact and functioning • Estuarine tidal marsh, salt marsh, tidal flats, tidal streams and wet prairie with some upland communities • Documented species include: whooping crane, West Indian manatee, red knot, snowy and piping plover, black skimmer, herons, egrets • Connectivity between Chassahowitzka NWR and WMA and Weekiwachee Preserve

NRDA LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITY LIST —FLORIDA

Second Tier Acquisition Projects

Protected Area	Parcel Name	Price	Agency	Parcel Description
St. Marks NWR	Shine Foundation and TNC	\$18 million	FWS	• 9,323 acres and 7,950 acres • Parcels are contiguous with each other and St. Marks NWR • Suitable for longleaf pine restoration • Two extensive tupelo/cypress swamps • Identified in Florida FWC draft bear management plan as important connector between Apalachicola and Big Bend Bear Management Units • Important to multiple migratory bird species including swallow-tailed kites • Important buffer to Big Bend Seagrass Aquatic Preserve • Skimmers, laughing gulls
Terra Ceia Buffer Preserve	Multiple parcels; Terra Ceia FFP	\$20.4 million	State of Florida	• 3,084 acres • Mangrove swamps and a mix of xeric hammock and flatwoods • Water quality impact on adjacent Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve, which provides seagrass habitat used by manatees
Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve	Multiple parcels; Charlotte Harbor Estuary FFP	\$88.5 million	State of Florida	• 13,547 acres over parcels on the Myakka River Estuary, Charlotte Harbor and Cape Haze • Mangrove swamp and salt marsh • Flatwoods and prairies • Habitat for bald eagles, scrub jays, manatees, sandhill cranes, indigo snake, gopher tortoise • Extensive undisturbed areas

NRDA LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITY LIST —FLORIDA

Protected Area	Parcel Name	Price	Agency	Parcel Description
Caloosahatchee NWR	Blue Head Ranch	\$80 million	FWS	• 42,000-acre easement • Part of Fisheating Creek Watershed • T&E species: grasshopper sparrow, wood stork, caracara, red cockaded woodpecker, gopher tortoise, indigo snake, scrub jay, Florida panther, Florida black bear • Dry and wet prairie • Completes protection of 90,000-acre ranch; 45,000 acres already under easement through NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program • Protects water quality of San Carlos Bay, which is critically important to brown pelican, skimmers, royal terns, Wilson's plovers, laughing gulls, and juvenile sea tea turtle nurseries.
Estero Bay Buffer Preserve	Multiple parcels; Estero Bay FFP	\$36.2 million	State of Florida	• 5,561 acres of bay and inland parcels • Documented species: bald eagle, Florida black bear, eastern indigo snake, wood stork, reddish egret, gopher tortoise • Mangrove swamp, salt marsh, salt flats
Rookery Bay Aquatic Preserve	Multiple parcels; Rookery Bay FFP	\$38.8 million	State of Florida	• 2,558 acres • Important habitat for recreational and marine fisheries • Habitats range from mangrove and marsh to maritime hammock, coastal grassland, scrub • Ideal habitat for West Indian manatee, bald eagle, Florida black bear, eastern indigo snake, wood stork, reddish egret, gopher tortoise
Crystal River NWR	Cool Springs	\$35 million	FWS	• 6,000 acres • Documented T&E species: wood stork, brown pelican, whooping crane, more than 3,000 gopher tortoises, Florida sandhill cranes • Drains into Withlacoochee, an important nursery for multiple Gulf species

NRDA LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITY LIST —FLORIDA

Protected Area	Parcel Name	Price	Agency	Parcel Description
Florida Keys Wildlife and Environmental Area	Multiple parcels; Florida Keys Ecosystem FFP	\$99.7 million	State of Florida	• 6,244 acres in a 17-parcel assemblage • Completes protection of remaining tropical hardwood hammocks in the Keys • Provides protection to the reefs around the islands and related important recreational and commercial fisheries • Habitat for Lower Keys marsh rabbit, Key deer, at least 75 other rare or threatened plants and animals including Lower Keys brown and ribbon snakes
Yellow River Marsh State Park	Garcon Ecosystem	\$19.4 million	State of Florida	• 7,724 acres • Peninsula jutting into northern Pensacola Bay with estuarine tidal marsh • Adds approximately 1 mile of shoreline protection along Escambia Bay and East Bay • Connects Yellow River Marsh Preserve SP with Garcon Point WMA • Estuarine marsh communities and the bay shoreline area provide foraging habitat for migrating shorebird species
Yellow River Wildlife Management Area	Escribano Point FFP	\$17.4 million	State of Florida	• 1,748 acres • Intact wetlands and sandy shoreline • Protects 10.4 miles of shoreline in East and Blackwater Bays and 37 miles of shoreline in the Yellow River WMA • Habitat for piping plover, snowy plover, least tern and black skimmer • Protects nearshore sea grass beds • Connects to buffer parcels for Elgin AFB

Gulf of Mexico Priority Land Conservation List

ALABAMA AND MISSISSIPPI



Kemps Ridley sea turtle, FWS | Whooping cranes, Bob Gress



Priority Refuges: 1

Acquisition Projects: 5

Total Acres: 119

Total Price: \$2.8 million

SPOTLIGHT ACQUISITION

BON SECOUR NWR

Bon Secour NWR —“Safe Harbor” in French— was established in 1980 to protect Alabama’s coastal dune ecosystem and is considered one of the ten natural wonders of Alabama. The 5 parcels available for acquisition total just 119 acres, but will create important habitat links and secure critical areas for loggerhead and Kemp’s ridley sea turtle nesting, as well as scrub habitat for endangered Alabama beach mouse, all species directly and dramatically affected by the Gulf oil spill.

Refuge: Bon Secour NWR

Key Feature: Beach and dune habitat, scrub uplands

Key Species: Kemp’s Ridley and loggerhead sea turtles, Alabama beach mouse

Assemblage size: 119 acres

Assemblage price: \$2.76 million

NRDA LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITY LIST—ALABAMA & MISSISSIPPI

First Tier Acquisition Projects

Protected Area	Parcel Name	Price	Agency	Parcel Description
Bon Secour NWR	BS 1	\$264,000	FWS	• 40 acres • Threatened loggerhead and endangered Kemp's ridley turtle nesting habitat • Documented federally endangered Alabama beach mouse • Skimmers, least terns, oystercatchers, and laughing gulls
Bon Secour NWR	BS 2	\$230,000	FWS	• 5.5 acres • Beach and dune habitat with some scrub upland • Loggerhead and Kemp's Ridley turtle nesting habitat • Endangered Alabama beach mouse habitat • Skimmers, least terns, oystercatchers, and laughing gulls
Bon Secour NWR	BS 3	\$1.4 million	FWS	• 37 acres • Beach, dune and scrub upland habitat • Loggerhead and Kemp's ridley turtle nesting habitat • Endangered Alabama beach mouse habitat • Skimmers, least terns, oystercatchers, and laughing gulls
Bon Secour NWR	BS 4	\$800,000	FWS	• 0.5 acres • Loggerhead and Kemp's ridley turtle nesting habitat • Endangered Alabama beach mouse scrub habitat • Skimmers, least terns, oystercatchers, and laughing gulls
Bon Secour NWR	BS 5	\$72,000	FWS	• 36 acres • Loggerhead and Kemp's ridley turtle nesting habitat • Documented Alabama beach mouse • Skimmers, least terns, oystercatchers, and laughing gulls

Gulf of Mexico Priority Land Conservation List

TEXAS



Habitat and Reddish egret, FWS



Priority Refuges: 4

Projects: 9

Total Acres: 11,100

Total Price: \$23 million

SPOTLIGHT ACQUISITION

ALLISON PARCEL

The Allison parcel is located on South Padre Island, Texas, in Laguna Atascosa NWR. The parcel traverses the beach and dune ecosystems from the open Gulf to the tidal flats of Laguna Madre. A total of 16 animal species found on the island have federal or state conservation status, and all potentially use this tract. Ecological functions and processes in the Laguna Madre are in large part dependent upon the integrity of the barrier island ecosystem. The goal of acquiring this land is to protect vital coastal habitats along the Laguna Madre to protect this barrier island ecosystem from coastal development.

Refuge: Laguna Atascosa NWR

Key Feature: Barrier Island, Extensive T & E Species

Key Species: Kemp's Ridley Turtle; 80% of country's wintering redhead duck population, skimmers, brown pelicans, royal terns, American oystercatchers, and laughing gulls.

Parcel Size: 2,620 acres

Parcel Price: \$3.15 million

NRDA LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITY LIST—TEXAS

First Tier Acquisition Projects

Protected Area	Parcel Name	Price	Agency	Parcel Description
Anahuac NWR	Brown	\$10.9 million	FWS	• 5,430 acres • Coastal prairie habitat • Full suite of spill-affected waterfowl and wading species • 27 species of ducks, including green-winged teal, gadwall, shoveler and northern pintail; snow geese in abundance • Roseate spoonbills, snowy and great egrets, white-faced ibis
Anahuac NWR	Clark	\$3 million	FWS	• 1,250 acres • Coastal marsh habitat • Full suite of spill-affected waterfowl and wading species • 27 species of ducks, including green-winged teal, gadwall, shoveler and northern pintail; snow geese in abundance • Roseate spoonbills, snowy and great egrets, white-faced ibis
Anahuac NWR	Entrance Pond	\$154,000	FWS	• 460 acres • Coastal marsh habitat • Full suite of spill-affected waterfowl and wading species • Ducks, including green-winged teal, gadwall, shoveler and northern pintail • Roseate spoonbills, snowy and great egrets, white-faced ibis
McFaddin NWR	BP	\$150,000	FWS	• 100 acres • Coastal marsh habitat • Full suite of spill-affected waterfowl and wading species
McFaddin NWR	1804	\$150,000	FWS	• 55 acres • Full suite of spill-affected waterfowl and wading species
Texas Point NWR	2141	\$1.35 million	FWS	• 268 acres • Full suite of spill-affected waterfowl and wading species
Texas Point NWR	2149 Tip of Texas	\$50,000	FWS	• 55 acres • Full suite of spill-affected waterfowl and wading species

STATE OF TEXAS PRIORITIES ACQUISITION LIST

Protected Area	Parcel Name	Price	Agency	Parcel Description
Laguna Atascosa NWR	Allison	\$3.15 million	FWS	• 2,620 acres • Located on South Padre, a barrier island • 16 species with federal or state conservation status • Protects coastal habitats along Laguna Madre, one of the country's most important nesting, migrating and wintering habitats for waterfowl, neotropical songbirds and sea turtles • Piping plovers, snowy plovers, Kemp's ridley turtles, 80% of the country's wintering red duck population • All turtle and waterfowl species that use this refuge are spill-affected species
Laguna Atascosa NWR	Jenkins	\$3.56 million	FWS	• 890 acres • Dense Tamaulipan brush on uplands, extensive salt marsh and salt flats on Laguna Madre, black mangrove habitat • Important link in corridor between the main unit of Laguna Atascosa NWR, the Bahia Grande Unit, the Lower Rio Grande NWR, and protected lands in Mexico • Protection of coastal grasslands and savannah would support existing Aplomado falcon population • Protects same turtle, waterfowl and neotropical songbird species as Allison tract • Parcel is highly threatened by new road construction; ownership by FWS will allow for appropriate crossings for ocelot and other trust species