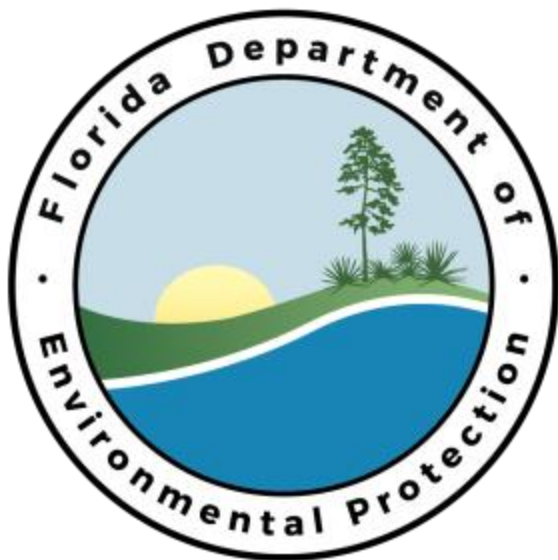




Deepwater Horizon • Project Proposal Form

Instructions

IMPORTANT: if you use **INTERNET EXPLORER** (IE), make sure to have **"protected mode" disabled**.

1. Go to: Menu > Tools > Internet Options > Security
 2. Uncheck: Enable Protected Mode
 3. Restart Internet Explorer
- Submitted Forms are used in the evaluation of future Natural Resource Damage Assessment, RESTORE Council-Selected Restoration, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund projects in Florida. Please complete this form with the most accurate information that you have available.
 - If you have multiple projects, please submit one Form for each project.
 - When you have completed the Form, hit the "Submit" button at the bottom of the Review page.

- **Once your Form is successfully submitted, you will receive a confirmation email and then a second email with a unique project number. Keep record of the project number as it will be required to make future updates to your project proposal.**
- **You may upload back-up maps, reports, or other information related to your proposal at the end of this form.**
- **To complete the form later, click on "save and continue later" button at the top of the page and you will receive an email with a link to this form.**

Submission Type

1) Submission type:

Is this a new Project Proposal or an update to a previous one?

- ☐ New
- ☐ Update

You will be prompted to provide information to new required fields when updating a Project Proposal for the first time using this form.

Update Login

Login/Password action: Update

Login Type:

Username and password fields will both be displayed.

If you receive an error message when logging in to update a project proposal, please contact us at Restoration.Projects@dep.state.fl.us with the Project

Proposal Number, your name and email address, and we will assist you.

Project Proposal Information

2) Project Title:*

FSUCML Estuarine Habitat Enhancements

Estuarine Habitat Enhancement at the Florida State University Coastal and Marine Laboratory (FSUCML)

3) Project Description:*

Provide a concise project description of one to two paragraphs, clearly indicate the objective(s) of the proposed project. Additional information may be provided as an upload at the end of the form.

The Florida State University Coastal and Marine Laboratory's (FSUCML) primary mission is to conduct interdisciplinary research and educate the public on the coastal and marine ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico. However, the shoreline and estuarine habitats directly adjacent to the FSUCML were highly impacted by dredging that occurred during the 1960s to create a boat basin, navigational channel and boat ramp critical to the research conducted at the lab. Over the course of the last 60 years, these alterations have exacerbated shoreline erosion and degraded estuarine habitats important to shoreline resiliency.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has partnered with FSU to replenish and protect the living coastal and marine resources adjacent to the laboratory and in turn, strengthen shoreline resiliency. **The plan includes the creation 0.2 acres of subtidal oyster reef breakwater habitat which will in turn protect proposed enhancements to 1 acre of intertidal shell rake (i.e. American oystercatcher nesting habitat) and 2 acres of saltmarsh habitat.** These habitats provide critical ecosystem services including the provision of refugia (e.g., nesting and nursery habitat) for a variety of ecologically and economically important fish, invertebrate and bird species, including many federally and state listed species. Sediment stabilization, water quality improvement, and protection from storm surge are additional benefits that will improve the health and resiliency of the coastal system.

4) Resource Benefits:*

(Check all that apply)

- ☒ Birds
- ☐ Corals
- ☒ Fish

- ☒ Human Use (Recreational, Cultural, Educational)
- ☒ Marine Mammals
- ☒ Reptiles/Amphibians
- ☒ Sediment/Benthos
- ☒ Shellfish
- ☒ Shoreline
- ☐ Terrestrial wildlife
- ☒ Vegetation
- ☒ Water Quality/Quantity
- ☐ Other

5) Is the Project included in a Regional or Statewide Plan(s)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Validation: Max character count = 255

6) Plan Name:*

St. Marks and Apalachee Bay Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan

Validation: Max character count = 1023

7) Technical Feasibility:

Describe the technologies involved and any relevant past experience or proven success with similar projects.

Proposed enhancements will: 1) create subtidal oyster reef breakwaters that will protect intertidal habitats; 2) stabilize and increase the elevation of eroding intertidal oyster shell rake habitat; and 3) expand existing saltmarsh by restoring hydrology and planting native salt marsh vegetation. The use of limestone aggregate is a proven technique for oyster reef breakwater construction. Prior reconnaissance indicates the availability of oyster spat in the water column. American oystercatchers nest in the area and have been observed foraging on FSUCML's intertidal oyster

reef habitat. Limestone aggregate will stabilize oyster shell cultch used to increase the elevation of eroding oyster rake habitat and provide suitable nesting material for shorebirds. Elevation, slope and tidal regime largely determine saltmarsh species composition and habitat extent. The removal of dredge cast, application of clean fill and re-grading of substrate will foster the expansion and long-term resiliency of saltmarsh habitat.

Validation: Max character count = 1023

8) Complements to Existing Efforts:

Describe any ongoing activities in the project area that may relate to or be affected by the proposed project. Consider how the proposed project may complement existing local, regional, and state efforts/plans/objectives.

Estuarine habitat restoration was identified as a key management practice within the Apalachicola SWIM Plan. By restoring a mosaic of shoreline habitats, this project also meets USFWS Coastal Program strategic goals and implements actions identified in FWC's plan for beach-nesting birds. Shorebird nesting habitat enhancements are designed to target American oystercatchers, Wilson's plovers and least terns, all high priority species within the South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative Conservation Plan. The proposed estuarine enhancement area is also directly connected to an adjacent approx. 1 acre shorebird nesting habitat enhancement area along FSUCML's coastline. That area will be enhanced with suitable nesting material in the winter of 2019/2020. In concert, this project will support a myriad of shorebird species that visit the site to breed, nest, forage, and overwinter each year.

Validation: Max character count = 1023

9) Community Resilience:

Describe if the project assists Florida's ability to anticipate, withstand, or recover from hazards or threats (e.g. hurricanes, storm surges, shoreline erosion).

The restoration of saltmarsh and oyster habitat is vital for the long-term resiliency of coastal communities. Marsh plants produce and trap sediments, stabilize and maintain soil elevations, act as erosion buffers, and filter nutrient inputs from inland sources. Oyster reefs provide vital fish and invertebrate habitat, filter nutrients and pollutants from the water and thereby improve water quality. This project will reduce wave-generated shoreline erosion, enhance the accretion of sediments required to build additional wetland habitat, buffer storm surge, and increase shoreline resiliency to change. Nesting habitat for shorebirds has become increasingly scarce along much of the Gulf coast as habitat destruction/degradation has impacted the quality and availability of limited habitats. By enhancing food resources and habitat availability, this project will increase overwintering success of Gulf coast birds and create critical nesting sites to increase reproductive success.

Validation: Max character count = 1023

10) Public Support:

Describe any known or potential public approval or opposition to the project.

There is no known public opposition to the project. The public and local community have already been engaged through education, outreach and volunteer efforts to learn about and implement project pre-restoration monitoring and pilot studies. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Florida Panhandle Coastal Program, Florida State University and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have provided financial support to complete project design, pre-restoration monitoring and/or upland bird nesting enhancements as a part of this project.

11) Total Cost of Project:*

This should include the total project cost regardless of funding source. Include contingency and ongoing operations/maintenance if applicable.

\$550,850.00

12) Total Funding Request:*

This is the dollar amount being requested by this proposal, excluding other funds.

\$300,000.00

13) Funding Needed For:*

(select all that apply)

- ☐ Planning/Design
- ☐ Permitting
- ☒ Implementation
- ☐ Operation/Maintenance
- ☐ Monitoring

14) Status of Project Planning/Design:*

- ☐ Not Started

- ☐ Started
- ☐ Completed

Please upload completed plans/designs at the end when prompted.

15) Status of Project Permitting:*

- ☐ Not Started
- ☐ Started
- ☐ Completed

Please upload issued permits at the end when prompted.

16) Is the Project able to be Phased?*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unknown

17) Number of Phases:*

2

Validation: Max character count = 255

18) Describe the phases:*

(name, activities, duration)

Phase 1 - Project implementation/construction - 1 year

Phase 2 - Post-construction monitoring & adaptive management - 3 years

19) Time Frame of the entire Project:

48 months

20) Category:*

Select only one category. It is recognized that projects may identify under multiple categories, but only select the best fit category.

- ☐ Land acquisition
- ☐ Water quality or quantity
- ☐ Habitat restoration
- ☐ Living resources
- ☐ Recreation or public access
- ☐ Community resilience

Land acquisition: Projects under this category seek to purchase a parcel of land.

Example project description: *“This project will acquire and transfer 17,273 acres of forested upland and wetland communities into state or federal ownership and will compensate for impacts to water quality through protection and restoration of terrestrial resources now in commercial timber operations.”*

Community resilience: Projects under this category seek to provide education, resources, and resilience within communities to protect the environment.

Example project descriptions: *“We propose a series of speaking engagements and workshops to advance our science-based understanding of the threats from and vulnerabilities to sea level rise, and to facilitate policy considerations for best adaptation and mitigation strategies. Speakers will present the latest science and policy strategies for sea level rise. Local workshops will help inform and guide policy.”*

Recreation/public access: Projects under this category entail installations or improvements for human-use.

Example project description: *“This proposal seeks to mitigate those losses via construction of a municipal marina, paddle craft access launch, and public waterfront area to stimulate and support increased access, boating and tourism on local waterways.”*

Living resources: Projects under this category seek to enhance, restore, protect, and/or conserve populations of living coastal and marine resources.

Example project description: *“This project seeks to provide critical information on the extent and species utilization of offshore fishery habitats. Using state-of-the-art towed camera and multibeam/sidescan sonar technologies, our team will assess habitat characteristics and species associations in five zones.”*

Habitat restoration: Projects under this category seek to enhance, restore, and/or conserve damaged or destroyed ecosystems and habitats.

Example project description: *“The proposed project focuses on the restoration of staghorn (*Acropora cervicornis*) and elkhorn (*Acropora palmata*) coral, both of which are listed as threatened but proposed for uplisting to endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Partners are proposing that through large scale nursery cultivation and strategic outplanting to reefs, these species can be reestablished as breeding populations that will provide subsequent natural recovery.”*

Water quality or quantity: Projects under this category seek to improve water quality or increase the flow of water.

Example project description: *“This project proposes to construct an aesthetically-enhanced wet detention stormwater facility and park meeting current water quality regulations, and an upgraded conveyance system equipped with pretreatment units designed to remove debris and floatables from the runoff to provide primary treatment prior to entering the wet detention pond.”*

Subcategory

21) Habitat Restoration Subcategory:*

- ☐ Freshwater wetlands and other surface waters
- ☐ Dune/beaches
- ☐ Marine
- ☐ Uplands

- Research/monitoring
 - Living shoreline/breakwaters
 - Other
 - **Freshwater wetlands and other surface waters:** Projects that regard the restoration of freshwater wetland habitats. For example, restoring coastal marsh to improve water quality, improve fishery habitat, improve bird habitat, and reduce shoreline erosion.
 - **Dune/beaches:** Projects that involve enhancing dunes or beach habitat. For example, projects seek to plant native dune vegetation to improve critical habitats for rare species.
 - **Marine/estuarine:** Projects that include restoring marine or estuarine habitats and species. For example, a marine project involves restoring propeller-damaged seagrass beds or restoring mangrove islands.
 - **Uplands:** Projects that entail restoration of upland habitats. For example, restoring longleaf pine ecosystems through silviculture operations.
 - **Research/monitoring:** Projects that involve researching or monitoring habitats to properly manage the wellbeing of the ecosystem by collecting scientific data. For example, sampling seagrass leaves to create a database that identifies organisms, physiological status, and community structure over time to determine the impacts to the ecosystem.
 - **Living shoreline/breakwaters:** Projects that seek to install living shorelines or breakwaters to stabilize the shoreline, protect surrounding environment, and create habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species. For example, comprising offshore breakwaters of rock and oyster shell and vegetated shoreline of emergent marsh vegetation.
-

Contact Information

22) Contact Information*

Katie Konchar

FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Katie.Konchar@myfwc.com

8508797520

Partner Information

23) Would you like to identify a project partner?

(A partner should be a different entity from the proponent)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

24) Partner Information

Felicia Coleman

FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory

fcoleman@fsu.edu

8506974120

Leveraging Information

25) Other Funding:

Select "Yes" if other funding for the project has been secured.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

26) Leveraging Information

Organization*:

FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Funding Type*:

- ☐ Federal
- ☐ State
- ☐ Local
- ☐ Other

Funding Amount*:

\$56,466.00

Description*:

FWC spent State of Florida Marine Resource Conservation Trust Funds to: 1) conduct a mean high water survey; 2) complete all required project bathymetric surveys, geotechnical soil testing, engineering design and permitting required to prepare the project for implementation; and 3) purchase limestone aggregate for stabilization of oyster shell hash material used to restore bird nesting habitat.

Organization*:

USFWS Coastal Program

Funding Type*:

- ☐ Federal
- ☐ State
- ☐ Local
- ☐ Other

Funding Amount*:

\$10,000.00

Description*:

USFWS Panhandle Coastal Program grant funding provided for the enhancement of shorebird nesting habitat

Location

27) Extent of Project Location:*

- ☒ Specific points
- ☐ Regional
- ☐ Undetermined, oceanic or statewide

28) Project Location:

Location Name*:

Watershed*:

Region::

County::

Latitude::

Longitude::

Documents

29) Upload documents:

Upload up to 10 documents. Each file can be up to 50 megabytes in size. If you have larger files, the files can be split in to multiple, smaller files or they can be emailed to Restoration.Projects@dep.state.fl.us. Extensions allowed are: pdf, zip, png, gif, jpg, jpeg, doc, xls, docx, xlsx, pdf, txt, mov, mp3, and mp4

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