



Florida: Escambia County Projects

Phase III Proposed Early Restoration Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustees are proposing a dune restoration project and four recreational use projects in Escambia County. As a result of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, dune habitat in Florida's Panhandle was adversely impacted, and the public's access to and enjoyment of their natural resources along Florida's Panhandle was denied or severely restricted. This proposed dune restoration project seeks to restore dune habitat by planting new dune vegetation. These four proposed recreational use projects seek to enhance and/or increase the public's use and/or enjoyment of those natural resources.

The proposed Perdido Key Dune Restoration project is approximately 6 miles long, and begins approximately 2.2 miles east of Perdido Pass and extends approximately 6 miles to the east. The proposed project will restore appropriate dune vegetation to approximately 20 acres of degraded beach dune habitat in Perdido Key, Florida, including habitat used by the federally endangered Perdido Key Beach Mouse. The project will consist of planting appropriate dune vegetation (e.g., sea oats, panic grasses, cord grasses, sea purslane, beach elder) approximately 20 – 60' seaward of the existing primary dune to provide a buffer to the primary dune and enhance dune habitats. In addition, gaps in existing dunes within the project area will be re-vegetated to provide a continuous dune structure.

The proposed Perdido Key State Park Boardwalk Improvements project would remove and replace six existing boardwalks leading to the beach from two

public access areas along Perdido Key in Escambia County.

The proposed Florida Gulf Coast Marine Fisheries Hatchery / Enhancement Center project would allow for the construction and operation of a saltwater sportfish hatchery in Bruce Beach, Pensacola. This facility would provide hatchery production and eventual release of highly sought-after sportfish species. Hatchery production (up to 5,000,000 fish annually) would be based on the use of intensive (i.e., indoor, tank-based) recirculating aquaculture systems that reduce water usage and effluent discharge. Effluent would flow through a small filtration marsh composed of native coastal wetland plant species (to be built as part of the project).

The proposed Bob Sikes Pier, Parking, and Trail Restoration project would add solar lighting, implement minor modifications to the pier and rails, and renovate designated parking areas at the existing Bob Sikes fishing pier on Santa Rosa Island. Furthermore the project would improve and add signage, widen and enhance an access trail, and implement aesthetic improvements at the pier.

The proposed Big Lagoon State Park Boat Ramp Improvement project would add an additional lane to the boat ramp, expand boat trailer parking, and improve traffic circulation at the boat ramp at the Big Lagoon State Park. Furthermore, a new restroom facility will be constructed and connected to the Emerald Coast Utility Authority (ECUA) regional sanitary sewer collection system.

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ESTIMATED COST

The Perdido Key Dune Restoration project is \$611,234.

The Perdido Key State Park Beach Boardwalk Improvements project is \$588,500.

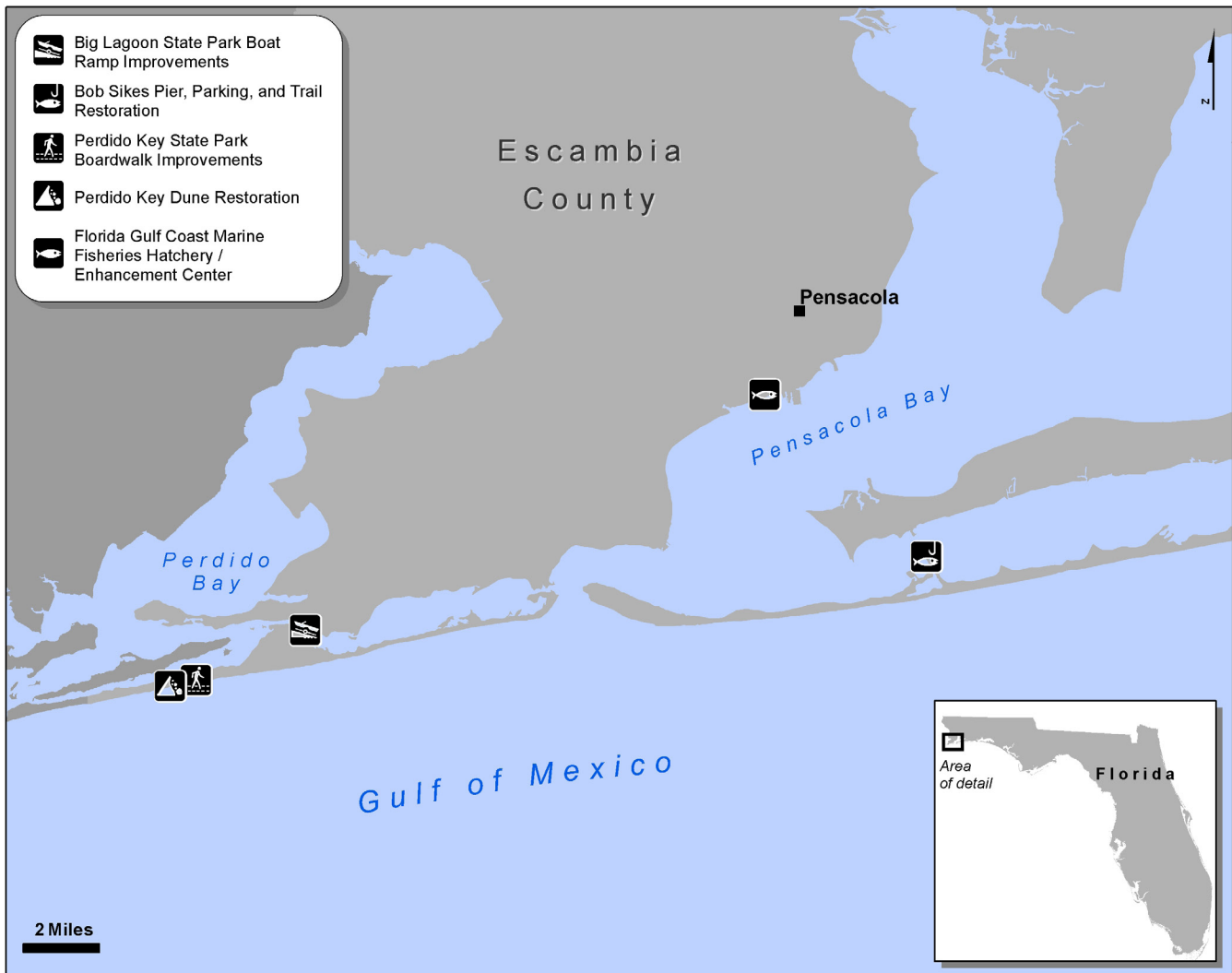
The Florida Gulf Coast Marine Fisheries Hatchery / Enhancement Center project is \$18,793,500.

The Bob Sikes Pier, Parking, and Trail Restoration project is \$1,023,990.

The Big Lagoon State Park Boat Ramp Improvement project is \$1,483,020.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov