Evolution of the Gulf of Mexico Ecological Management Sites Program:
An Information Exchange to Support Regional Conservation and Restoration
Partnership

TEXAS

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GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM

GULF OF MEXICO FOUNDATION
Community-based Restoration Partnership

WHAT IS THE CRP? GENERAL INFORMATION (pdf)

The Community-based Restoration Partnership (CRP) promotes conservation at a grass-roots level, funding citizen-driven habitat restoration projects throughout the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean.

The CRP brings together several partners – state and federal governmental entities, non-profit organizations, citizens and business – in a collaborative effort to provide funding and support for coastal habitat restoration projects.

Since 2001, the Gulf of Mexico Foundation has administered the program, managing 79 restoration projects to improve 15,000 acres throughout the Gulf and Caribbean. To bring the projects to life, volunteers have logged more than 50,000 hours and partners have donated more than $5.5 million in funding.

The GCRP funding opportunity is currently closed. Please check back periodically for updates on future funding.
Gulf Ecological Management Sites

The Gulf Ecological Management Site (GEMS) Program is an initiative of the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program and the five Gulf of Mexico states.

Its goal is to provide a regional framework for focusing attention on geographic areas that have special ecological significance to fish, wildlife and other natural resources, or a geographic area that represents unique habitats.

Since the inception of the GEMS Program in 1996, each Gulf state has been granting GEMS status to marine areas with special ecological significance. As a result, those designated areas (which currently number 140) are considered high priority for protection, restoration and conservation by both state and federal governments.

To view the GEMS locations along with useful information about each of them click on the GEMS Portal map viewer (see right). Check back often since more information about the GEMS and (coming soon) restoration projects are added periodically. The GEMS Program and GEMS Portal are made possible by funding from the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program. Inquiries can be made to info@gulfmex.org.
GEMS Viewer

http://www.gulfmex.org/gems
2012: CRP Project #11-03 Restoring Coral Reefs with In-situ Nursery Techniques

The goal of this proposal is to maintain and expand a coral nursery that will enhance local populations of corals. Currently, project managers are using nursery techniques known as the "floating underwater coral array" (FUCRA).

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2011: CRP Project #10-01 Oyster Reef Restoration in the Texas Coastal Bend

This project seeks to use reclaimed oyster shells from coastal bend restaurants and seafood wholesalers to restore 3.8 acres of oyster reef in Copano Bay, Texas. As part of a larger effort, we have been tracking reclaimed shells at a repository located on land leased from the Port of Corpus Christi.

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2011: CRP Project #10-02 Elmer's Island Community-Led Restoration

This project will protect fish and wildlife habitats and important human infrastructure on Elmer's Island in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. Community volunteers from the greater New Orleans area will propagate indigenous plant species which will be out-planted onto Elmer's Island to stabilize the beach and enhance dune formation along a critical low lying beach.

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2011: CRP Project #10-03 Restoring the Mouth of Bayou Auguste

Bayou Auguste connects to Biloxi's Back Bay and extends west for one half mile into East Biloxi. The mouth of the bayou is currently constricted by a bridge and the banks are degraded by erosion of broken concrete slabs.

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2011: CRP Project #10-04 Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Mobile Bay

The project involves installation of nearshore, wave attenuating structure to promote oyster attachment and plant intertidal, shoreline marsh vegetation on Mobile Island along the western shore of Mobile Bay to create and enhance subtidal and intertidal habitat and stabilize sediments.

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2011: CRP Project #10-06 Enhancement of mangrove shorelines in Clam Bayou

In Clam Bayou, less than 5% of the shoreline has a canopy of red mangrove shorelines. Degradation of the red mangrove habitat was caused by recent hydrological impairment (2000-2005) exacerbated by hurricane damage (2004). Seasonal flooding and poor water quality result in the loss of large areas, which are now covered by standing dead trees.

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2011: CRP Project #10-07 Newman Branch Creek Phase II Habitat Restoration

The Newman Branch Creek Habitat Restoration project, located in southeast Hillsborough County, Florida, will be implemented in an effort to restore estuaries and freshwater habitat in the Tampa Bay area. The project will involve the removal of invasive exotic species, primarily Brazilian pepper (Schinus terebinthifolius) and the re-creation of a variety of native estuarine, freshwater, and upland habitats.

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2010: Project #0901 Tiki Island Maintenance Dredge & Beneficial Use Project

An all-volunteer, community-based project team is working to develop and implement a long-term strategy for building, protecting and restoring surrounding marshlands/wetlands by recycling uncontaminated canalside dredge materials removed from residential boat可 access canals within the Village of Tiki Island.

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2010: Project #0902 Elmer's Island Dune & Beach Community Restoration

The project site is located on a strip of beach that separates back bay and marsh habitat from the Gulf of Mexico. The project site is a new beach habitat that was historically located further into the Gulf of Mexico (previously known as the "Camarda Spit") but has now retreated further inland. The Elmer's Island site has similar physical characteristics and vulnerabilities when compared to Bay Champagne/Fourchon Beach, the location of our small-scale 2008 dune restoration project that was funded by GOMF.

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2010: Project #0903 Jefferson Parish Lafitte Terrace Planting Jefferson, Louisiana

This project will restore approximately 3 acres of broadleaf marsh habitat through the use of volunteer labor to plant a minimum of 6,000 salt tolerant plants on the crown of existing terraces located in a highly eroded marsh area adjacent to the Barataria Bay Waterway in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

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2010: Project #0904 Deer Island Restoration Project Biloxi, Mississippi

Deer Island restoration project will protect 800 linear feet of shoreline on the north-east corner of the island from erosion by creating a breakwater form, approximately 700 cubic yards of recycled oyster shell will be deployed in 1 inch mesh wire bags, contained along the shoreline to high tide high. The main wire bags will eventually be built over using the oyster habitat free of debris/flash (plastic mesh bags will not degrade).

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http://goo.gl/M0LSKp