NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
RESTORATION IN GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL PARKS

Mark A. Ford, Ph.D., PWS
Regional Wetlands Ecologist
Southeast Regional Office
OBJECTIVE

• Discuss restoration projects for Gulf of Mexico coastal parks
• Just a brief summary of some big ticket wish list projects. List is far from exhaustive
• Several highly publicized funding streams are potential sources
  – RESTORE
  – DWH/BP oil spill
    • Early Restoration
    • NRDA settlements
Southeast Regional Office
Natural Resource Management Branch
Gulf of Mexico Coastal Parks

Texas
Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS)  131, 142 acres
Big Thicket National Preserve (BITH)  106, 305 acres total area

Louisiana
Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve (JELA)
Barataria Preserve (BARA)  23,000 acres

Mississippi and Florida
Gulf Islands National Seashore (GUISH)  135, 458 acres
Desoto National Memorial (DESO)  27 acres
Big Cypress National Preserve (BICY)  720,566 acres
Everglades National Park (EVER)  1, 508, 538 acres
Dry Tortugas National Park (DRTO)  61, 481 acres
(99% submerged)

Total  2.7 million acres

Southeast Regional Office
Natural Resource Management Branch
Louisiana

- Canal backfilling of old used canals.
Louisiana

- Shoreline protection project,
- stone laid directly on the natural slope of the shoreline.
Louisiana-JELA BARA

Lake Salvador
Florida-Everglades

- Restoring hydrology in the Everglades
- Bridge 5.5 mi. of Tamiami Trail
- over 100,000 acres of wetland habitat in the park.
Florida-Gulf Islands National Seashore

- Beach mouse habitat enhancement
- Facilitating public access in an environmentally responsible manner;
- Revegetation of select areas to promote dune formation and habitat connectivity; and,
- Dedicated monitoring to document relative abundance and distribution of the species.
Florida-Gulf Islands National Seashore

- Bay scallop restoration
- Four spawning batches of scallops
- Three years of this project.
- Multi-layered stocking technique has resulted in several successful scallop reintroductions by the state of Florida in the past to reestablish scallop populations.
Gulf Islands National Seashore
Florida and Mississippi

• Longleaf pine restoration
• Prescribed controlled burns over the course of a 5 year period
• Maintenance burns would be conducted over a 5-year period.
Sea Turtle Restoration

- Florida and Mississippi Gulf Islands National Seashore
- Texas Padre Island National Seashore
- Sea turtle restoration will ensure hatching events are closely monitored and will ensure hatchlings enter the Gulf of Mexico
Sea Turtle Restoration

GUIS and PAIS
• The most common are loggerheads (*Caretta caretta*).
• Green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*)
• Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
• Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

PIAS
• Hawksbill sea turtle, (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)
Questions?

Southeast Region- mark_ford@nps.gov

Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve
New Orleans