

US Department of the Army

Beneficial Use of Dredged Material to Create Emergent Tidal Marsh in Upper Mobile Bay

The primary goal of this project is to restore and conserve habitat by creating and restoring an estimated 1,200 acres of estuarine tidal marsh through the placement of readily available sediment material from the Mobile Bay navigation channel, ASPA terminals, and local private dredging activities into the upper Mobile Bay beneficial use (BU) area. This project is a significant step toward enhancing the ecosystem diversity of a region containing extensive open water estuarine habitats and limited tidal marsh. The project will enhance utilization of navigation maintenance sediment and contribute to maximizing use of dredge material for effective and sustainable coastal restoration. The primary objective is to Restore, Enhance, and Protect Habitats by restoring the estuarine marsh through the construction of a semi-submerged containment area and placement of dredge material at a cost of about \$23,000 per acre. RESTORE funds will be utilized to create the containment feature, cost of placement and management of material may be leveraged from Federal and private interests. Secondary objectives include: improvement to water quality, providing habitat for living coastal and marine resources, enhancing community resilience by providing buffer to a main thoroughfare between Mobile and Baldwin Counties, and enhancing the economy of the region by providing cost effective disposal options for the many navigation related industries located along the Mobile River. At the completion of the containment berms and the initial 100-acre marsh, the semi-confined site design will enable the entire site to have full tidal influence and allow marine life conveyance within the site until it is ultimately filled with dredged material and the wetlands are established. The proposed design will provide for tidal channels throughout the wetlands to increase the edge effect of the vegetation and provide for appropriate spawning grounds for native estuarine species. Requested funding amount: \$27,500,000