

US Department of the Army

Restoration of Deer Island with Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

The primary goal of this project is to restore and conserve habitat by restoring an estimated 40 acres of estuarine tidal marsh by creating a containment structure into which readily available sediment material from the Biloxi Harbor navigation project and potentially smaller private channels would be placed. This project is a significant step toward restoring the ecosystem diversity to regional tidal marsh and open water estuarine habitats and the continuation of an overall restoration of Deer Island (Harrison County, Mississippi) to its pre-1900 footprint. 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 an earthen containment area and placement of dredge material at a cost of about \$75,000 per acre. RESTORE funds will be utilized to create the containment feature, cost of placement and management of material will be leveraged from Federal and potentially private interests. The project will enhance utilization of navigation maintenance sediment and contribute to maximizing use of dredge material for effective and sustainable coastal restoration. Secondary objectives include: improvement to water quality, providing habitat for living coastal and marine resources. MDMR currently holds a Department of Army permit from USACE Mobile District, Regulatory Division to construct the original containment and emergent tidal marsh feature utilizing the beneficial use of dredged material concept. This permit expires in 2021 but could be renewed if necessary. Once all work is completed under this proposal, the 40 acre site will be able to contain approximately 400,000 cys of locally dredged material. Requested funding amount: \$3,000,000.