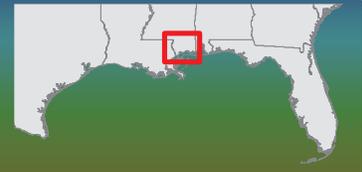




Gulf Coast  
Ecosystem  
Restoration  
Council

# Mississippi Sound Watershed

Deer Island Beneficial Use  
(USACE\_RESTORE\_004\_000\_Cat1)



**Project Name:** Deer Island Beneficial Use - Implementation

**Cost:** Category 1: \$3,000,000

**Responsible Council Member:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Partnering Council Member:** State of Mississippi

**Project Details:** The Deer Island Beneficial Use project would use material dredged during maintenance of the Black Warrior - Tombigbee (BWT) Federal navigation project to beneficially construct a 5 acre Chenier (ridge), and complete the construction of another 5 acre ridge that would create the containment component. The containment component would be a 40-acre beneficial use site on the northern side of Deer Island just offshore of Biloxi. Subsequent filling of the site with dredged material leveraged from the Biloxi Harbor Federal navigation project and local dredging projects would result in the creation of 40 acres of emergent tidal wetlands. This project would build upon other Deer Island restoration efforts.

**Activities:** Between approximately 75,000 and 100,000 cubic yards of the sandy material from the BWT would be excavated and placed on barges and moved to the restoration site. The southern Chenier would be constructed to an elevation of approximately +10 ft. along the entire southern footprint using the hydraulically placed sand. The northern berm at elevation + 7 ft. would initially act as containment for future fine-grain dredge material placed, but would eventually be re-graded to allow for full tidal exchange and access for marine organisms once the new marsh is established. An open area would remain at the west end of the site to allow some tidal influence and draining until the site becomes a fully functional marsh.

**Environmental Benefits:** Constructing this beneficial use containment site at Deer Island would allow for restoration, improvement, and protection of aquatic habitat on Mississippi Coastal Preserves state lands and the adjacent Gulf sturgeon critical habitat within Mississippi Sound. The creation of additional marsh would protect the island from further erosive forces caused by routine wave energy. The created marshes would provide new feeding grounds supporting natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region. Once all work is completed under this proposal, the 40-acre site would be able to contain approximately 400,000 cubic yards of local beneficial use dredge material.

**Duration:** Construction could begin within three months of receiving funds and be completed within six to nine months of initiation.

**More information on this activity can be found in Appendix E. Mississippi Sound; Unique Identifier: USACE\_RESTORE\_004\_000\_Cat1.**



# Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

## Mississippi Sound Watershed

### Deer Island Beneficial Use Site

 Beneficial Use

**Cost:** Category 1: \$3,000,000

**Sponsor:** US Army Corps of Engineers

**Project Status:** Implementation

**Purpose:** The project would include the completion of an on-going habitat restoration project "a.k.a. beneficial use site" using stockpiled sand from the Black Warrior Tombigbee (BWT) river system for containment coupled with maintenance dredge material from the adjacent Federal Channel and private channels as marsh fill material. Once completed, the 40-acre project will showcase the use of normally discarded native sediments as emergent tidal marsh habitat restoration material and promote Mississippi's state law regarding beneficially using dredge material.

## Mississippi Sound

Biloxi Bay



Map Date: August 08, 2015