

**RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Matrix — Department of the Treasury**

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Applicant Name: Plaquemines Parish

1. CUMULATIVE DIRECT COMPONENT ALLOCATION AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO APPLICANT:			\$3,039,783				2. TOTAL ALLOCATIONS PLUS KNOWN FUNDS NOT YET DEPOSITED IN TRUST FUND FOR DIRECT COMPONENT:				\$3,039,783	
3. Primary Direct Component Eligible Activity Further Described in Application (Static Field)	4. Activity Title (Static Field)	5. Location - Municipality(ies) (Static Field, locations also shown on attached map)	6. Total Funding Resources For Activity Budget (refer to Instructions)				7. Proposed Start Date mm/yyyy	8. Actual Start Date mm/yyyy (Static Field)	9. Proposed End Date mm/yyyy	10. Actual End Date mm/yyyy (Static Field)	11. Proposed High Level Milestones Further Described in Application	
			6a. Direct Component Contribution	6b. Other RESTORE Act Contribution	6c. Other Third Party Contribution	6d. Total Project Budget						
Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region	Cat Island Restoration	See Attached Map	\$2,057,198	\$0	\$3,010,000	\$5,067,198	August-15		August-18		Preconstruction / Construction of Containment / Construction of island-fill / Construction of living shoreline and revegetation of island	
12. TOTAL FUNDING FOR BUDGET (refer to Instructions)			\$2,057,198	\$0	\$3,010,000	\$5,067,198						

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1505-0250. Comments concerning the time required to complete this information collection, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, should be directed to the Department of the Treasury, RESTORE Act Program, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20220.

# RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Eligible Applicant Name:

**Name and Contact Information of the Person to be contacted (POC) on matters concerning this Multiyear Implementation Plan:**

POC Name:

POC Title:

POC Email:

POC Phone:

**B. PROVIDE A BRIEF NARRATIVE THAT DEMONSTRATES:**

**1. The need, purpose, and objectives for each activity, including a detailed description of each activity.**

**Need:** Cat Island East (hereafter Cat Island) has eroded substantially over the last decade. Its current footprint, 3 acres, is less than 1% of the original size of the island (+ 350ac). Cat Island is an extremely important nesting / rookery location for coastal birds, especially the brown pelican. The first observations of colonial nesting birds on the subject islands occurred in 1997, when the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) documented nesting during post-hurricane surveys. These islands are extremely productive nesting grounds for brown pelicans, terns, gulls, and various wading bird species.

**Purpose:** Reconstruct Cat Island using sustainable engineering and design principles to approximately 19 ac in size. This size is large enough to be sustainable through time, and provides significant bird nesting habitat.

**Objectives:**

1. Complete planning and technical design on Cat Island
2. Create and maintain high-value habitat and nesting grounds for birds
3. Achieve island sustainability and stability for an extended life of 20 years

**2. How the applicant made the multiyear plan available for 45 days for public review and comment, in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations, such as through public meetings, presentations in languages other than English, and postings on the internet. The applicant will need to submit documentation (e.g. a copy of public notices) to demonstrate that it made its multiyear plan available to the public for at least 45 days. In addition, describe how each activity in the plan was adopted after consideration of all meaningful input from the public.**

Plaquemines Parish used multiple avenues for public engagement for review and comment on the MIP. Plaquemines Parish made the MIP available for comment from December 8th, 2014 to February 6th, 2015. Plaquemines Parish released the MIP on the Plaquemines Parish government website, placed a public notice in the Plaquemines Parish Gazette, placed hard-copies of the MIP in both Belle Chasse, and Port Sulphur Libraries, undertook a social media campaign where the MIP was placed on the Plaquemines Parish facebook page as well as half-a-dozen tweets were sent out to twitter followers about the MIP. Please see Multiyear Implementation Plan public comment section in MIP, as well as the attached document for specific web addresses and press-releases (Appendix B). Plaquemines Parish also extended the public comment period by 2 weeks to maximize public opportunity for comment. The Parish received no written comments to the MIP. The Plaquemines Parish administration received several phone calls from Parish Council men asking for clarification on what the MIP was, where it was being funded from, and what the end result of the plan would be. This was the extent of public input on the MIP.

**3. How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan matrix is eligible for funding and meets all requirements under the RESTORE Act.**

In this first MIP, only one activity is being submitted for funding. This activity meets the eligible activity of restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.

**Specifically this activity targets:**

- Restoration of wildlife habitat
- Restoration of coastal wetlands
- Protection of natural resources and ecosystems

**4. How the applicant will evaluate success of the activities included in the matrix.**

**Two measures of success will be tied to our objectives:**

- Creating and maintaining high-value habitat and nesting grounds for birds
- Achieving island sustainability and stability for an extended life of 20 years

Sustainability is a key measure of success as three key issues have resulted in the deterioration of the present Cat Island:

- Shoreline destabilization through waves and wind
- Natural subsidence and sea level rise
- Land mass loss due to storms

In order to measure the success of this project the following milestones will be put in place:

1. Complete pre-construction activities (i.e., engineering and design, project planning, and any additional geotechnical and environmental compliance)
2. Complete construction of containment of Cat Island
3. Complete construction of fill of Cat Island
4. Complete construction of living shoreline of Cat Island

**5. How the activities included in the multiyear plan matrix were prioritized and the criteria used to establish the priorities**

Cat Island has been a restoration priority for Plaquemines Parish for the last three years. The Parish has engaged with a number of partners to establish the restoration partnership which highlights the level of engagement of non-governmental organizations as well as businesses to the importance of restoring these islands. There have been several presentations within the Parish, as well as at the state level, showcasing the change and loss of habitat of Cat Island. These presentations have documented the need for restoration of this valuable habitat. This has been further supported by funding, when available, being used for initial site geotechnical engineering by Manchac Consulting Group, Inc., and the preliminary engineering and design, and best value analyses by Arcadis. These funds will be leveraged with the priority nature of the restoration for the construction of Cat Island.

**6. The relationship, if any, between the activities the applicant included in the multiyear plan matrix and other activities funded under the RESTORE Act**

Plaquemines Parish is constantly seeking leveraging opportunities for RESTORE funds. At this time there are no coordinated activities between the restoration of Cat Island and other activities funded under the RESTORE Act.

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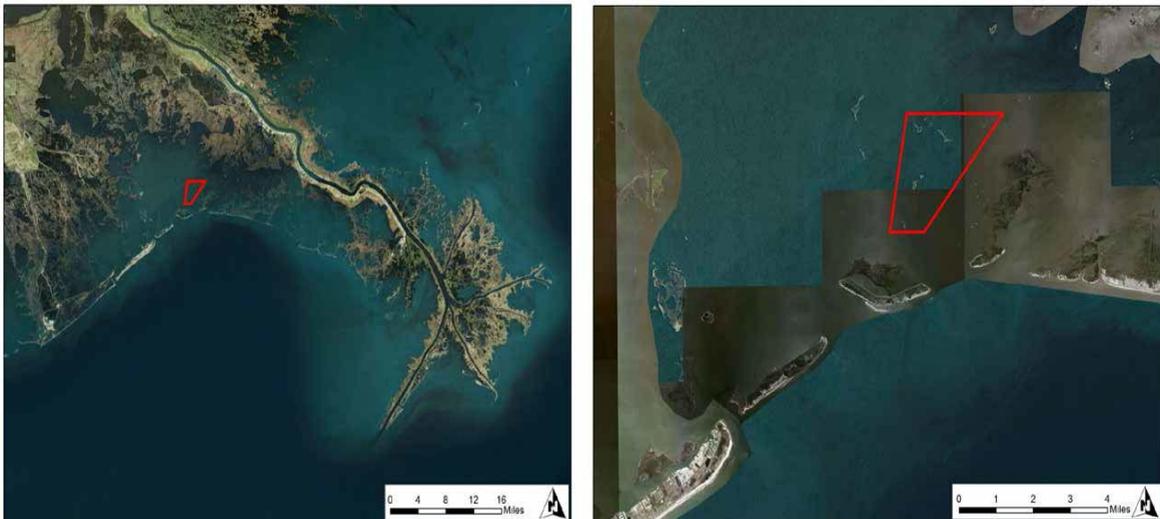


## Multiyear Implementation Plan – Activity #1: Cat Island Restoration

Cat Island is recognized as critical bird habitat in Barataria Bay, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. Over the last 20 years, the islands have lost more than 90 percent of their land mass and were directly impacted and completely inundated by the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. This project is the culmination of several years' worth of work including significant partnership and leveraging of funds to ensure this project is constructed. Cat Island was a significant feature within Barataria Bay because they provide critical nesting habitat for a variety of birds including brown pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), reddish egrets (*Egretta rufescens*), and roseate spoonbills (*Platalea ajaja*). The reconstruction of the island would not only recreate essential bird nesting habitat for these species but will also, as designed, provide an opportunity for endangered American oystercatchers to nest.

### **Location**

Cat Island is located in the Lower Barataria Bay (29°20'26.51"N; 89°52'12.02"W). The island chain consists of two island complexes – Cat Island West and Cat Island East. This project proposes the restoration of Cat Island East (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Aerial images showing the location of Cat Island in Lower Barataria Basin, Plaquemines Parish.