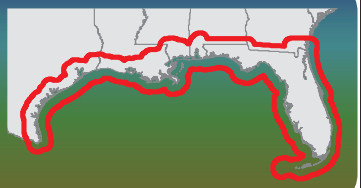
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

Gulf-wide Foundational Investment

Strategic Conservation Assessment Framework
(MS_RESTORE_001_009_Cat1)



Project Name: Strategic Conservation Assessment Framework - Planning

Cost: Category 1: $1,879,380

Responsible Council Member: Department of the Interior

Partnering Council Members: All

Project Details: This proposed project would develop conservation planning tools that Council members could use as they identify and evaluate future land conservation strategies, opportunities, and projects in the Gulf Coast Region. These tools would be developed through an inclusive and collaborative process that evaluates data from previously existing land conservation plans and incorporates local, regional and Gulf-wide input. The final products would include: a new Geographic Information System (GIS) of existing plans and other pertinent information; a Conservation Planning Tool (CPT) that reflects the Council members' shared goals and priorities; and a Strategic Conservation Assessment (SCA) that identifies land conservation opportunities based upon shared goals and other factors.

Activities: The project would combine the land conservation plans already in existence in the Gulf region into decision support tools – the CPT and SCA - that offer a Gulf-wide perspective on land conservation. These tools and subsequent modeling and analysis would provide Council members information they could use to ensure that land conservation decisions they make provide the greatest benefits to current and future ecosystem sustainability and resilience within the states and across the Gulf.

Environmental Benefits: These tools would lead to better informed decisions regarding land conservation strategies that would support local communities by increasing tourism, keeping working lands working, and maintaining ecosystem health. Decisions that include local, regional and watershed perspectives are more likely to achieve the greatest shared economic and ecosystem benefits.

Duration: The proposed project would take three years to complete.

More information on this activity can be found in Appendix K. Gulf-wide; Unique Identifier: MS_RESTORE_001_009_Cat1.