



**Coastal Preserves Bureau  
Office of Coastal Ecology**

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Executive Director**

**September 12, 2008**

## Coastal Preserves Program Plan

This document is an authorized release of The Department of Marine Resources, which provides an overview of the programs and projects within Coastal Ecology.

The effective date of this Plan is 1 October 2008. It will be reviewed and updated at least annually or as significant changes occur in the scope and management of the programs and projects within Coastal Ecology.

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Approved:

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## Coastal Preserves Bureau Management Plan

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# COASTAL PRESERVES BUREAU MANAGEMENT PLAN

## **1. Introduction, Background & Authority**

### 1.1 Introduction

Mississippi's coastal wetlands are among the most biologically productive and ecologically diverse natural systems within the state. This productivity translates into important economic returns along the coast in the form of commercial and recreational fisheries, hunting, and trapping. Mississippi's coastal wetlands perform important ecological functions acting as pollution filters, sediment and toxicant traps, flood control, groundwater recharge areas, primary production and important nursery areas which contribute to the productivity of an abundant fishery resource. Coastal wetlands also provide breeding, nesting, and feeding grounds for more than a third of all threatened and endangered animal species, support numerous endangered plant species, and provide seasonal and permanent habitat for approximately 75 percent of North America's bird species.

In 1991, the Mississippi legislature legalized coastal dockside gaming in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties. Casino gaming has been adopted in Hancock and Harrison Counties. As well as gaming, ship building expansion in Jackson County and the expansion of the harbors in all three coastal counties is resulting in the Mississippi Gulf Coast becoming one of the fastest growing regions in the state. While significant population growth and economic development have brought economic opportunity to the coast, it has also resulted in the loss of coastal wetlands and other critical aquatic habitats, caused changes to local bay water quality, and intensified competition for our limited natural resources. The Mississippi coastline has undergone extensive development in recent years, and future trends indicate that developmental pressures on environmentally sensitive areas will continue well into the twenty-first century.

The mission of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is to enhance, protect and conserve marine interest of the State by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas known as the Mississippi Coastal Zone, for optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. The Mississippi Secretary of State's Office is an active partner with the Department of Marine Resources in realizing this mission and providing funds for the Coastal Preserves Program to perform acquisition, protection, and management of coastal wetland habitats.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Coastal Preserves Program is designed to acquire, protect and manage Mississippi's remaining coastal wetland habitats and associated resources, realizing that the abundance and productivity of natural resources occupying Mississippi's coastal waters are a product of the quantity and quality of the wetland habitat. Wetland degradation and loss affects numerous stakeholders by leading to subsequent deterioration of wetland related resources such as fisheries, wildlife, as well as adjacent public and private property. State trust lands within the Coastal Preserves will be effectively managed to perpetuate their natural characteristics, features, ecological integrity, social, economic and aesthetic values for the future benefit of all Mississippi residents.

## 1.2 History

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Coastal Preserves Program, which was initiated in 1992, by the (then) Bureau of Marine Resources, was assigned the responsibility of providing effective stewardship of Mississippi's sensitive coastal areas. Specifically, the Coastal Preserves Program is designed to consolidate existing deeds to State-owned coastal wetlands, set priorities and acquire additional sensitive coastal wetland habitats, and ensure that the ecological health of these selected areas is maintained through appropriate resource protection and coordinated management efforts. The Mississippi Secretary of State's Office is an active partner in the Coastal Preserves Program through an established cooperative agreement whereby both agencies agree to *"effectively preserve, conserve, restore, and otherwise manage selected coastal wetland ecosystems, associated uplands and tidelands"*.

## 1.3 Legal Authority

1.3.1 The Coastal Preserves Program was initiated in 1992 through the 1973 Coastal Wetland Protection Act, in Section 49-27-1 et.seq. of the Mississippi Code.

1.3.2 The Coastal Preserves Program supports the State of Mississippi's public policy declaration for the preservation of the natural state of the coastal wetlands and their ecosystems as stated in Section 49-27-3 et.seq. of the Mississippi Code: Whereas, "It is declared to be public policy of this state to favor the preservation of the natural state of the coastal wetlands and their ecosystems and to prevent the despoliation and destruction of them, except where a specific alteration of specific coastal wetlands would serve a higher public interest in compliance with the public trust in which coastal wetlands are held." (Appendix A)

- 1.3.3 Directives for the development of estuarine sanctuaries are stated in Section 49-27-65 et seq to the Mississippi Code: Whereas, "In recognition of the national policy expressed in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, Public Law 92-583, the council is directed to include an overall plan for use of coastal and private wetlands in the Mississippi Coastal Management Plan being prepared by the council, and the council is further directed to identify and include in such plan specific coastal and private wetlands which the council recommends should be set aside as estuarine sanctuaries." Section 49-27-65, Mississippi Code, 1972, as amended. (Appendix A)
- 1.3.4 The Coastal Preserves Program is a critical component to a comprehensive Mississippi Coastal Zone Management Program.

## **2. Mission, Vision & Goals**

### **2.1 Mission**

The Coastal Preserves Program is dedicated to effectively preserve, conserve, restore, and manage Mississippi's coastal ecosystems to perpetuate their natural characteristics, features, ecological Integrity, social, economic and aesthetic values for future benefit.

### **2.2 Vision**

The long-term vision of this program is the management of Mississippi's Coastal Preserves sites to provide long-term benefits to the natural resources and economic value of the region. Management goals will enhance and perpetuate approximately 77,000 acres of important coastal wetland resources, provide compatible human recreational use, provide research and data applicable to coastal resource management both on-site and off-site, and protect specific habitat necessary for native, threatened, or endangered species. State trust lands within the Coastal Preserve sites will be effectively managed to perpetuate their natural characteristics, features, ecological integrity, social, economic and aesthetic values so that future generations may enjoy the benefits of viable wetland ecosystems.

### **2.3 Goals**

- 1.** Restore, enhance, protect and manage Mississippi's remaining coastal estuarine marsh ecosystems.
- 2.** Protect and preserve habitat of any rare, threatened or endangered species of plants and animals present on Coastal Preserves.
- 3.** Promote increased opportunities for public appreciation and enjoyment of Mississippi's coastal estuarine wetlands that are compatible with protecting, preserving and enhancing the natural resources.
- 4.** Acquire, restore and protect unique habitats and associated plant and animal communities.
- 5.** Monitor populations of non-indigenous species and protect native species from deleterious effects of non-indigenous species.
- 6.** Contribute to the viability and natural biodiversity of coastal estuarine marsh ecosystems through management.
- 7.** Develop coastal preserve management strategies that foster improved coordination among federal, state and local entities with jurisdiction and interests in coastal wetland protection.
- 8.** Increase public awareness and interest in the values and functions of coastal wetlands, their habitats, and the ecosystems they are dependent upon.

### **3. Approach & Methodology**

#### 3.1 Approach

Coastal Preserves Program personnel will partner with the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Mississippi Forestry Commission, National Resource Conservation Service, and other local, state, and federal agencies and organizations to fulfill the responsibilities mandated in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Marine Resources and the Secretary of State's Office (Appendix B).

#### 3.2 Method

##### **Goal 1. Restore, enhance, protect and manage Mississippi's remaining coastal estuarine marsh ecosystems.**

Objective 1.1 Acquire and protect coastal habitats.

Strategy 1.1.1 Identify, acquire, and protect significant acreage of high priority coastal wetlands through fee simple title, easements, or protective agreements each year.

Objective 1.2 Identify coastal wetlands that can be restored or enhanced to mitigate adverse impacts to coastal habitats.

Strategy 1.2.1 Implement measures to identify wetlands that have been altered and can be restored or enhanced to perform wetland functions.

Strategy 1.2.2 Identify, create, restore, or enhance significant acreage of high priority coastal wetlands.

##### **Goal 2. Protect and preserve habitat of any rare, threatened and endangered species of plants and animals present on Coastal Preserves.**

Objective 2.1 Protect and preserve habitat critical for rare, threatened and endangered species.

Strategy 2.1.1 Assess and monitor occurrences and locations of rare, threatened and endangered species within twenty Coastal Preserve sites.

Strategy 2.1.2 Protect and preserve significant acreage of critical habitat required by rare, threatened and endangered species through fee simple title, easements, or protective agreements each year.

Strategy 2.1.3 Manage habitat of rare, threatened and endangered species to prevent impacts that negatively influence ecological integrity.

##### **Goal 3. Promote increased opportunities for public appreciation and enjoyment of Mississippi's coastal estuarine wetlands that are compatible with protecting, preserving and enhancing the natural resources.**

Objective 3.1 Provide public access and use of resources on state-owned lands within Coastal Preserves Program.

Strategy 3.1.1 Identify those areas conducive to increased public access and enjoyment of wetland resources within Coastal Preserve sites.

Strategy 3.1.2 Provide public opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreational opportunities.

Strategy 3.1.3 Develop necessary partnerships with state and local agencies to finance, develop and manage enhanced access projects.

Strategy 3.1.4 Secure necessary acreage to protect unique habitat and environmentally sensitive areas.

Objective 3.2 Actively promote access and enjoyment opportunities of public wetlands sites.

Strategy 3.2.1 Identify and inventory coastal wetland sites providing public access and recreational opportunities.

Strategy 3.2.2 Develop a comprehensive guide promoting opportunities to public access facilities and the natural resources of Mississippi coastal wetlands.

Strategy 3.2.3 Develop partnerships with other natural resource agencies, state agencies, and local private organizations to promote opportunities for public enjoyment of coastal wetlands.

Strategy 3.2.4 Provide public opportunities to participate in wildlife and habitat inventories and surveys.

**Goal 4. Acquire, restore and protect unique habitats and associated plant and animal communities.**

Objective 4.1 Identify unique habitats within the twenty Coastal Preserve sites.

Strategy 4.1.1 Use photographs, literature, and field visits to identify and inventory habitats and communities located within the twenty coastal preserves.

Strategy 4.1.2 Document and collect coordinates for unique habitats and communities.

Objective 4.2 Acquire and protect unique habitats and communities.

Strategy 4.2.1 Acquire significant acreage of unique habitat and communities.

Strategy 4.2.2 Develop management plans that preserve ecological integrity of habitat.

Strategy 4.2.3 Evaluate land use management strategies.

Strategy 4.2.4 Identify unique or critical habitat that may not reside within Coastal Preserves' boundaries but may be suitable for acquisition or protection.

**Goal 5. Monitor populations of non-indigenous species and protect native species from deleterious effects of non-indigenous species.**

Objective 5.1 Identify, document location of, and monitor populations and effects of non-indigenous species on native flora and fauna.

Strategy 5.1.1 Semi-annually, determine if non-indigenous species are significantly threatening flora and fauna and take responsive actions annually to alleviate those threats.

**Goal 6. Contribute to the viability and natural biodiversity of coastal estuarine marsh ecosystems through sound ecosystem management.**

Objective 6.1 Manage Coastal Preserves to support priority habitats and species and to promote environmental education and public use.

Strategy 6.1.1 Manage Coastal Preserve lands in a manner that will maximize their viability, biodiversity, and contribution to achieving ecosystem goals.

Strategy 6.1.2 Develop and maintain a coordinated Coastal Preserves data management system.

Strategy 6.1.3 Manage and develop provisions for the protection of areas containing unique examples of coastal estuarine marsh ecosystem and other significant natural features or plant or animal life.

**Goal 7. Develop coastal preserve management strategies that foster improved coordination among federal, state and local entities with jurisdiction and interests in coastal wetland protection.**

Objective 7.1 Gather and make available information needed by reserve managers and coastal decision-makers for improved understanding and management of coastal resources.

Strategy 7.1.1 Enhance scientific understanding of estuarine ecosystem processes and functions.

Strategy 7.1.2 Collect important baseline data to monitor differences over time and for comparing different areas.

Strategy 7.1.3 Identify priority resources and monitor the impacts of human stresses.

Strategy 7.1.4 Maintain effective management activities and develop effective mechanisms for accountability.

Strategy 7.1.5 Establish a multi-disciplinary management advisory committee.

Objective 7.2 Make Coastal Preserve management processes visible, coherent, accessible, and acceptable to the people of Mississippi

Strategy 7.2.1 Actively engage the state, local government, and local citizens early in the formulation and development of all Coastal Preserves Program ecosystem management activities.

Strategy 7.2.2 Provide opportunities for public review and comment to all proposed management actions.

Strategy 7.2.3 Promote opportunities to involve public stewardship in proposed management actions.

Strategy 7.2.4 Provide timely updates on management changes.

**Goal 8. Increase public awareness and interest in the values and functions of coastal wetlands, their habitats, and the ecosystems they are dependent upon.**

Objective 8.1 Develop and deliver educational materials and programs to inform the public about wetland species, their habitats, and their value to human beings.

Strategy 8.1.1 Develop four public information brochures or pamphlets about coastal wetland protection programs and local wetland functions and values.

Strategy 8.1.2 Develop and deliver three educational programs per year that enhance public awareness and understanding of estuarine ecosystems and human effects on them.

Strategy 8.1.3 Develop and provide public use of Coastal Preserve lands for environmental education.

Strategy 8.1.4 Develop and participate on two public outreach and education programs in high priority resource areas.

#### **4. *Schedule & Milestones***

- 4.1 Time frame for goals  
See Milestone Chart in Appendix C.

## **5. Management Organization Structure**

- 5.1 Internal Program Organizational Structure (Appendix D)
  - 5.1.1 Coastal Preserves Bureau Director II
  - 5.1.2 DMR-Coastal Resource Management Specialist I
  - 5.1.3 DMR-Coastal Resource Management Specialist II
  - 5.1.4 Special Projects Officer III
  - 5.1.5 Administrative Assistant III
- 5.2 External Program Organizational Structure
  - 5.2.2 Secretary of State's Office - Joint manager of the Coastal Preserves Program - Land acquisition, program management, and management plan development
  - 5.2.3 The Nature Conservancy - Land acquisition, negotiating, finalizing and closing of options

## **6. Resources, Budget, and Funding**

### 6.1 Identification of Funding Sources

- 6.1.1 The DMR Coastal Preserves Bureau receives its operating funds from the Secretary of State's Office (Appendix E). These funds are provided through a Memorandum of Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between the agencies (Appendix B)
- 6.1.2 Land acquisition and management funds are generated through Mississippi Secretary of State Escrow Account, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grants, Environmental Protection Agency Grants, Natural Resource Conservation Service Grants, Coastal Zone Management Act Section 306A, Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection Fund, and Tidelands Funds (Appendix F & H).

### 6.2 Identification of personnel requirements (Appendix G)

- 6.2.1 Bureau Director II - Program Planning, Management Plan Development, Land Acquisition (on-board)
- 6.2.2 DMR-Coastal Resource Management Specialist II - Inventory and Survey, GPS and GIS Program Development, Geo-referencing of Data, Public Outreach and Education Program. (on-board)
- 6.2.3 DMR-Coastal Resource Management Specialist II – Land Management, Inventory and Survey, GPS and GIS Program Development, and Geo-referencing of Data. (on-board)
- 6.2.4 Special Projects Officer III - Inventory and Survey, GPS Use, Database Development and Management, Effecting Management Practices and Contractual Services (vacant)
- 6.2.5 Administrative Assistant III - Warranty Deed and Tax-forfeited Lands Specialist, Signs, General Clerical and Office Support (vacant)

### 6.3 Services and/or Contractual Requirements

- 6.3.1 Contracts for property cleanup.
- 6.3.2 Contracts for Prescribe Burn Management
- 6.3.3 Contracts for Forestry Management.
- 6.3.4 Contracts for Property Boundary Surveys.
- 6.3.5 Subcontracts for Grants
- 6.3.6 Printing of Public Education and Outreach Publications.
- 6.3.7 Printing of Boundary and Site Identification Signs.
- 6.3.8 Non-indigenous Species Control Measures.
- 6.3.9 Land Acquisition Support.

### 6.4 Materials, Equipment, Hardware, and Software Needed

- 6.4.1 Equipment

- 4X4 Pickup Truck (acquired)
- 24 foot Aluminum Boat (acquired)
- Canoe (acquired)
- Tractor & Accessories
- Laptop Computer (acquired)
- High-Resolution Digital Camera (acquired)
- Trimble Real-time GPS Unit (acquired)
- Handheld GPS integrated with ArcGIS
- 2 ATVs (1 acquired)

#### 6.4.2 Hardware

- Computers (acquired)
- Printers (acquired)
- Presentation Projector

#### 6.4.3 Software

- Imagine Image Analysis Software
- Publication Software (acquired)
- ArcView GIS Software Update (acquired)

## **7. Reports and Records Produced**

- 7.1 The Coastal Preserves Program submits quarterly reports and invoicing to Secretary of State's Office.
- 7.2 The Coastal Preserves Program submits annual and final reports on all active federal grants and quarterly reports on Tidelands Funds projects.
- 7.3 The Coastal Preserves Program maintains record/database of habitats, flora, and fauna, and species of concern within Coastal Preserve areas.
- 7.4 The Coastal Preserves Program maintains record/databases that include GPS datum and geo-referenced natural habitats.

## **8. Program Status**

- 8.1 Biological Surveys and Monitoring  
Ongoing biological surveys and monitoring are being conducted in many of the Coastal Preserves, but efforts are focused on the Escatawpa River Marshes, Hancock County Marshes, Biloxi River Marshes, Wolf River Marshes, and Pascagoula River Marshes.
- 8.2 Active Grants (Appendix H)  
To date the land acquisition grants are waiting on willing sellers. The Longleaf Pine Restoration project is in progress (see below).
- 8.3 Projection of future projects
  - 8.3.1 Restoration of 50 acres of marsh on Deer Island using dredge material from the Biloxi Channel was begun in late 2002. Planting occurred in early spring 2005. Project was damaged by Hurricane Katrina in Aug. 2005. Project will be repaired and completed when complete vegetative cover is accomplished, projected in the summer of 2010.
  - 8.3.2 Longleaf Pine Savanna restoration on the Dantzler tract in the Pascagoula River Marsh is ongoing. Timber cut was completed in late spring 2002. Clearcut is currently being treated for invasive species. Prescribed burns have been conducted on 90% of the acres. Longleaf seedlings were planted in Spring 2003. Small amounts of pine savanna plants were planted in summer of 2003. Treatment of invasive species and thinning of dead timber continues.
  - 8.3.3 Longleaf Pine restoration was begun on the Wachovia tract in FY 2004. Loblolly pine plantation has been partially removed and replanted with longleaf pine.
  - 8.3.4 Four nature trails are in development for the DuPont, Wachovia, Ladner and Deer Island tracts.
  - 8.3.5 Development of a Coastal Mississippi Prescribed Fire Management Cooperative is underway using CIAP funds.
  - 8.3.6 Hurricane Katrina has delayed several of the above projects. Efforts are currently focused on debris removal and restoration of storm-damaged areas.
- 8.4 Tracking of funds, budget, and expenditures  
FY 2009 MOA/MOU with Mississippi Secretary of State has not yet been approved.
- 8.4 Land Acquisition / Management Status (Appendix I & J)

The Coastal Preserves Program has acquired 26,521 acres as of August 2008. The program currently manages more than 34,000 acres.

8.6 Education/Outreach

As part of our education and outreach efforts, Coastal Preserves personnel have made contributions toward the development of the annual Celebrate the Gulf Festival in Pass Christian, Mississippi.

Coastal Preserves has published a Coastal Wetlands booklet, a coastal plant identification guide for the Grand Bay NERR, a Coastal Preserves brochure, Coastal Preserves Postcards, and two Coastal Preserves Wildflower Posters. A Coastal Preserves Calendar and a greatly improved website are in the planning stages.

8.7 Management Teams

Coastal Preserves personnel actively participate in various multi-agency management teams such as the Mitigation Banking Review Team, Pascagoula River Basin Management Team, Mississippi Exotic Pest Plant Council, Mississippi Watershed Forum Roundtable, Northern Gulf Coast Planning Partnership, and the Coastal Mississippi Prescribed Fire Cooperative.

8.8 Future Risks

The Coastal Preserves Program generates most of its land acquisition funds through matching of State Tidelands funds with federal grant dollars (Appendix F). Current concerns are about the future dependability of these funds and appropriations at the program level. The Coastal Preserves Bureau Director is aggressively pursuing alternative funding opportunities for this critical role.

8.9 Changes in the Program

The Coastal Preserves Program is aggressively addressing land management issues. Management activities are expected to increase in the future, which will require reprioritizing program funds. It is anticipated that ancillary land management projects will be generated due to the dynamic nature of this program.

## APPENDIX A

### CHAPTER 27 COASTAL WETLANDS PROTECTION ACT

#### § 49-27-3 Public policy declared

It is declared to be the public policy of this state to favor the preservation of the natural state of the coastal wetlands and their ecosystems and to prevent the despoliation and destruction of them, except where a specific alteration of specific coastal wetlands would serve a higher public interest in compliance with the public purposes of the public trust in which coastal wetlands are held.

Sources: Laws, 1973, ch. 385, § 2, eff from and after July 1, 1973.

#### § 49-27-65 Evaluation of coast wetlands; charts; education of public; overall use plan

(a) To implement the policy set forth in the chapter and to assist in the protection of coastal wetlands, the commission acting with the cooperation and assistance of the Gulf Regional Planning Commission and the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory shall evaluate the coastal wetlands and prepare charts at an appropriate scale showing the distribution of coastal wetlands as defined in this chapter. These charts will be provided to the offices of the chancery clerk of affected counties and to the Gulf Regional Planning Commission. The charts will be updated and reissued periodically as needed to provide a current inventory of coastal wetlands.

(b) The commission shall promote the education of the public about scientific and economic knowledge concerning coastal wetlands.

(c) In recognition of the national policy expressed in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, Public Law 92-583, the commission is directed to include an overall plan for use of coastal and private wetlands in the Mississippi Coastal Zone Management Plan being prepared by the commission. **The commission is further directed to identify and include in such plan specific coastal and private wetlands which should be set aside as estuarine sanctuaries.**

Sources: Laws, 1973, ch. 385, § 13; Laws, 1994, ch. 578, § 48, eff from and after July 1, 1994

## **APPENDIX B**

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MISSISSIPPI SECRETARY OF STATE AND MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Secretary of State serves as the trustee of State of Mississippi trust properties and has a mandated interest in coastal tidelands and recognizes the public benefits in the conservation and preservation of certain coastal areas in the interest of present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is to enhance, protect, and conserve marine interests in the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands, and waterfront areas for multiple uses considering environmental concerns and social issues; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Coastal Preserves Program has been established by the Department of Marine Resources to preserve, conserve, restore and sustain the ecological integrity of several coastal wetland ecosystems, for the public benefit; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this document is to establish a cooperative management agreement between the Secretary of State and the Department of Marine Resources for certain areas within the Mississippi Coastal Preserves System and to outline specific agency responsibilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, in order to meet the specific objectives of this Memorandum, the aforementioned agencies agree as follows:

1. The Secretary of State and the Department of Marine Resources will jointly (coordinated by the Department of Marine Resources):
  - consolidate all warranty deeds and other documents providing a state interest in real properties within or adjacent to Coastal Preserve boundaries.
  - develop a Coastal Preserves Strategic Plan.
  - develop a priority acquisition program.
  - develop preserve-specific management plans.
  
2. The Department of Marine Resources will:
  - coordinate the above joint tasks with the Secretary of State and others;
  - develop boundary surveys and mark as appropriate;
  - conduct biological surveys and environmental assessments;
  - coordinate restoration and enhancement projects;

- develop and maintain preserve specific land use land cover maps and other appropriate management maps;
  - consider selected public access improvements;
  - coordinate the state's effort to establish a National Estuarine Research Reserve in the Grand Bay/Bangs Lake region of Jackson County;
  - coordinate contractual or other preserve staff;
  - secure additional properties for the preserve system through various means;
  - develop preserve specific emergency response plans;
  - coordinate preserve surveillance and security;
  - implement acquisition and management plans;
  - coordinate preserve public relations; and
  - secure federal, state, local or private match for preserve projects.
3. The Secretary of State will:
    - assist with planning activities as appropriate;
    - provide annual financial support based upon availability of funds to the Department of Marine Resources to implement the Coastal Preserves Program; and
    - secure additional properties through various programs.
  4. Specific annual tasks will be outlined in a separate contract document between the Secretary of State and the Department of Marine Resources.
  5. The Department of Marine Resources will provide an annual report summarizing preserve activities for the previous year and further coordinate with the Secretary of State as needed.
  6. This agreement may be terminated upon mutual agreement of both agencies, providing a minimum of 90 days to develop alternative plans.

The undersigned hereby execute this MOU and assure that the authority to execute this agreement has been granted by the appropriate governing bodies.

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date  
 William W. Walker, Ph.D.  
 Executive Director

**MISSISSIPPI SECRETARY OF STATE**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date  
 Delbert Hosemann  
 Secretary of State

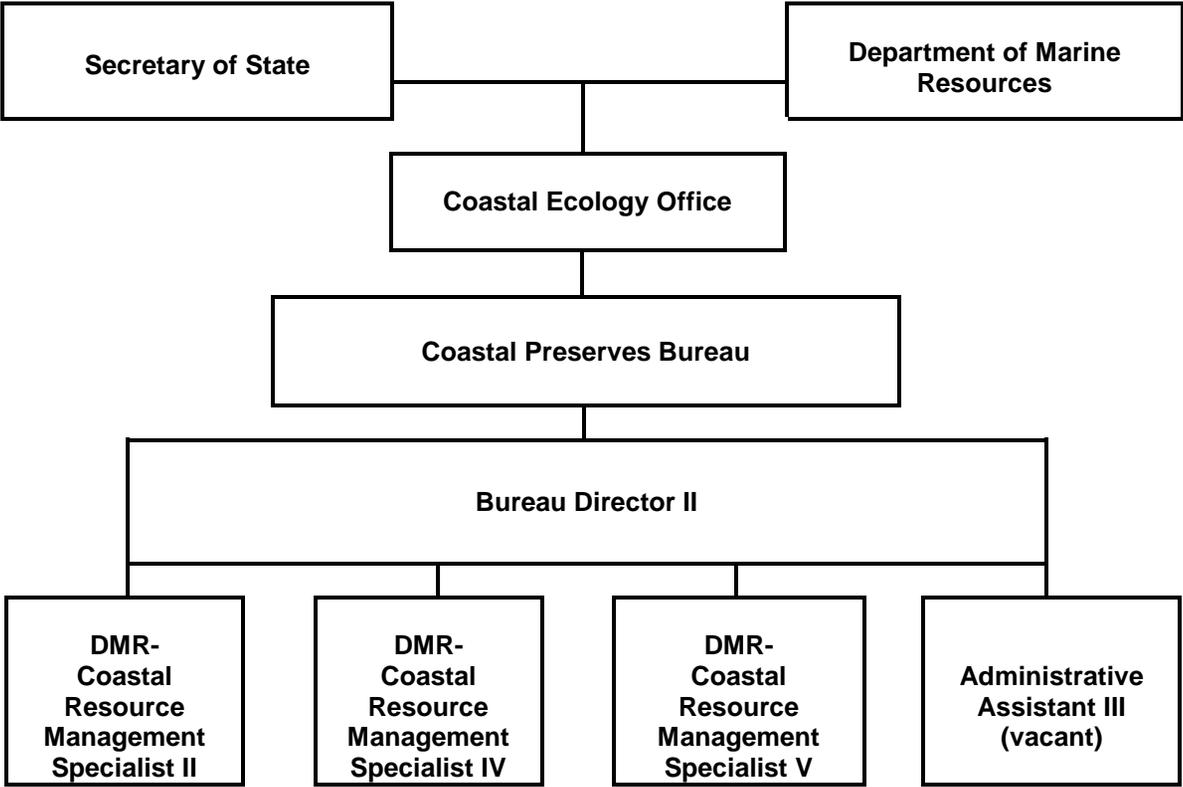
## APPENDIX C

### Coastal Preserves Program Milestone Chart

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Acquire and Protect Significant Acreage of High Priority Coastal Wetlands				
Identify coastal wetlands suitable for creation restoration, enhancement projects		Identify a creation, restoration or enhancement project	Identify a creation, restoration or enhancement project	Identify a creation restoration or enhancement project
Identify and facilitate the development of sites suitable for public access and use of resources within the Coastal Preserve sites			Develop a comprehensive guide promoting opportunities to public access on Coastal Preserve sites	
Develop data-mgmt system that includes GPS/GIS capabilities	Develop partnerships with other natural resource agencies to coordinate data formats, biological surveys, environmental assessments and monitoring proposals			
Maintain annual up-to-date mappings of state managed properties				
Identify, document and monitor populations of non-indigenous species on state managed Coastal Preserve sites Take 2 corrective actions annually				
Develop 1 Coastal Preserves Mgmt Plan	1 Coastal Preserves Management Plan	1 Coastal Preserves Management Plan	2 Coastal Preserves Management Plans	2 Coastal Preserves Management Plan
Create 1 information poster	2 brochures Develop education program	1 brochure, 1 pamphlet Provide education presentation to the public	2 brochures 2 educational presentations	1 brochure/pamphlet 3 educational presentations
Secure project/grant to meet program goal	Secure project/grant to meet program goal	Secure project/grant to meet program goal	Secure project/grant to meet program goal	Secure project/grant to meet program goal

**APPENDIX D**

**Coastal Preserves Bureau  
Program Organizational Structure**



## APPENDIX E

### Coastal Preserves Program Budget

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>FY09MOA</b>	<b>FY10MOA</b>	<b>FY11MOA</b>	<b>FY12MOA</b>	<b>FY13MOA</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
Travel	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	40,000
Contractual	127,000	97,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	524,000
Commodities	20,000	20,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	136,000
Equipment	30,000	30,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	135,000
Grant Match	5,000	5,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	85,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>190,000</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>920,000</b>

## **APPENDIX F**

### **PUBLIC TRUST TIDELANDS FUNDS SECTION 29-15-9 MISSISSIPPI CODE**

§ 29-15-9. Public Trust Tidelands Fund; distribution of funds derived from lease rentals of tidelands and submerged lands.

There is hereby created in the State Treasury a special fund to be known as the "Public Trust Tidelands Fund." The fund shall be administered by the Secretary of State as trustee.

Any funds derived from lease rentals of tidelands and submerged lands, except those funds derived from mineral leases, or funds heretofore specifically designated to be applied to other agencies, shall be transferred to the special fund. However, funds derived from lease rentals may be used to cover the administrative cost incurred by the Secretary of State. Any remaining funds derived from lease rentals shall be disbursed pro rata to the local taxing authorities for the replacement of lost ad valorem taxes, if any. Then, any remaining funds shall be disbursed to the commission for new and extra programs of tidelands management, such as conservation, reclamation, preservation, acquisition, education or the enhancement of public access to the public trust tidelands or public improvement projects as they relate to such lands.

Sources: Laws, 1989, ch. 495, § 6; Laws, 1994, ch. 578, § 53, eff from and after July 1, 1994.

## APPENDIX G

### Coastal Preserves Program Personnel & Responsibilities

<b>Key Team Member</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
1. Jeff Clark	Bureau Director II	Program Supervision, Management, and Control in all Areas Below. Land Acquisition Management Plan Development Land Management	228-523-4103
2. Ali Rupp	DMR-Coastal Resource Management Specialist IV	Supervise Education and Public Outreach Program. Biological Survey/Inventory Work Manages Special Projects Serves as Member of Preserve Management Team	228-523-4109
3. Travis Williams	DMR Coastal Resource Management Specialist II	Supervise land management activities.  Biological Survey/Inventory Work. Database Development and Priority Site Development Serves as Member of Preserve Management Team	228-523-4110
4. George Ramseur	DMR-Coastal Resource Management Specialist IV	Biological Survey/Inventory Work.  Database Development and Priority Site Development Serves as Member of Preserves Management Team Participate in land management planning and activities.	228-523-4120
5. vacant	Administrative Assistant III	Administrative and Business Support Work Manages Special Projects	

## APPENDIX H

### COASTAL PRESERVES ACREAGE

COASTAL PRESERVE	TOTAL ACRES	ACRES UNDER COASTAL PRESERVE MANAGEMENT
Bayou LaCroix	991	110
Bayou Portage	769	161
Bellefontaine Marsh	1,097	0
Biloxi River	2,098	450
Cat Island	2,270	0
Davis Bayou	1,388	34
Deer Island	546	452
Escatawpa River	1,880	395
Grand Bay	9,370	4,538
Grand Bayou	459	74
Graveline Bay	1,640	818
Hancock County Marsh	20,909	9,688
*Horn Island	3,258	0
Jourdan River	3,849	213
Old Fort Bayou	846	70
Pascagoula River	14,591	15,002**
*Petit Bois Island	1,396	0
Round Island	66	0
*Ship Island	2,129	0
Wolf River	2,193	2,094
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71,777</b>	<b>34,099</b>

\*Owned and managed by the U.S. National Park Service

\*\*Includes some area outside original Coastal Preserves boundary.