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Coastal Preserves

Coastal Preserves Mission, Vision, and Goals

Coastal Preserves

Coastal Preserves Mission, Vision, and Goals

Mission

Vision

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Related Environment Programs

Mississippi GEMS

Habitat Stewards

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

Objective: Acquire and protect coastal habitats.

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

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

Strategy (1): Implement measures to identify wetlands that have been altered and can be restored or enhanced to perform wetland functions.

Strategy (2): Identify, create, restore, or enhance significant acreage of high priority coastal wetlands by 2008.

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

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

Strategy (1): Assess and monitor occurrences and locations of rare, threatened, and endangered species within Coastal Preserve sites.

Strategy (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 (3): Manage habitat of rare, threatened, and endangered species to prevent impacts that would negatively influence ecological integrity.

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

Strategy (1): Identify those areas conducive to increased public access and

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enjoyment of wetland resources within Coastal Preserve sites.
Strategy (2): Provide public opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreational opportunities.
Strategy (3): Develop necessary partnerships with state and local agencies to finance, develop, and manage enhanced access projects.
Strategy (4): Secure necessary acreage to protect unique habitat and environmentally sensitive areas.

Objective: Actively promote access and enjoyment opportunities of public wetland sites.

Strategy (1): Identify and inventory coastal wetland sites that provide public access and recreational opportunities.

Strategy (2): Develop a comprehensive guide promoting opportunities to public access facilities and the natural resources of Mississippi Coastal Wetlands.

Strategy (3): Develop partnerships with other natural resource agencies, state agencies, and local private organizations to promote opportunities for public enjoyment of coastal wetlands.

Strategy (4): Provide public opportunities to participate in wildlife and habitat inventories and surveys.

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

Objective: Identify unique habitats within the Coastal Preserve sites.

Strategy (1): Use photographs, literature, and field visits to identify and inventory habitats and communities located within the Coastal Preserve sites.

Strategy (2): Document and collect coordinates for unique habitats and communities.

Objective: Acquire and protect unique habitats and communities.

Strategy (1): Acquire significant acreage of unique habitat and communities.

Strategy (2): Develop management plans that preserve ecological integrity of habitat.

Strategy (3): Evaluate land use management strategies.

Strategy (4): Identify unique or critical habitat that may not reside within Coastal Preserves boundaries but may be suitable for acquisition or protection.

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

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

Strategy (1): Semi-annually, determine if non-indigenous species are significantly threatening flora and fauna and take responsive actions annually to alleviate those threats.

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

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

Strategy (1): Manage Coastal Preserve lands in a manner that will maximize their viability, biodiversity, and contribution to achieving ecosystem goals.

Strategy (2): Develop and maintain a coordinated Coastal Preserves data management system.

Strategy (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.

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

Strategy (1): Enhance scientific understanding of estuarine ecosystem processes and functions.

Strategy (2): Collect important baseline data to monitor differences over time and for comparing different areas.

Strategy (3): Identify priority resources and monitor the impacts of human stresses.

Strategy (4): Maintain effective management activities and develop effective mechanisms for accountability.

Strategy (5): Establish a multi-disciplinary management advisory.

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

Strategy (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 (2): Provide opportunities for public review and comment to all proposed management actions.

Strategy (3): Promote opportunities to involve public stewardship in proposed management actions.

Strategy (4): Provide timely updates on management changes.

8. Increase public awareness and interest in the values and functions of coastal wetlands, their



habitats, and the ecosystems they are dependent upon.

- Objective:** Develop and deliver educational materials and programs to inform the public about wetland species, their habitats, and their value to human beings.
- Strategy (1):** Develop four public information brochures or pamphlets about coastal wetland protection programs and local wetland functions by 2008.
- Strategy (2):** Develop and deliver three educational programs per year that enhance public awareness and understanding of estuarine ecosystems and human effects on them.
- Strategy (3):** Develop and provide public use of Coastal Preserve lands for environmental education.
- Strategy (4):** Develop and participate on two public outreach and education programs in high priority resource areas by 2008.