

Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan

Restoration Plan Database: Crystal Reports of Individual Plan Summaries

I. BASIC PLAN DATA

Plan name:

Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan

Brief description of plan:

This plan describes the Reserve's goals, objectives, and management issues, and identifies intended strategies or actions for research, education-interpretation, public access, construction, acquisition, and resource preservation, restoration, and manipulation.

Region the plan is located within:

Gulf of Mexico Region

Watershed(s) included within the plan:

G150x

Area plan covers (in square miles):

196.00 square miles

Plan scale:

County

Plan's lead organization(s):

Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Plan's Main Contact Information:

Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
11300 US Highway 98
Fairhope, Alabama 36532

On-line version of plan:

Date of original plan:

11/1998

II. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Plan includes restoration goals: Y

Level of detail of the goals:

G

Summary of the goals:

Protect and restore habitats and habitat diversity within the boundary of the Reserve. Manage resources of the Reserve to maintain the highest functional level possible as a coastal estuarine ecosystem. Maintain the natural integrity of the Reserve habitats as determined by historical data. Restore habitats that have been degraded by human impact or have been disturbed leading to decreased productivity within the Reserve ecosystem.

Plan recommends restoration of specific project sites:

N

Plan includes a discussion of funding sources:

Y

Plan addresses long-term protection of restored sites:

N

Partners included in developing the plan:

Federal
State

Type(s) of public outreach included during plan development:

Information not available

Plan includes public outreach as part of plan implementation (e.g. annual public meeting, local group participation):

Y

Plan discusses the application of innovative approaches to restoration:

N

Plan make use of GIS mapping capabilities:

Y

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for ecosystem level monitoring (baseline conditions) by:

G

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for project level monitoring by:

G

The plan discusses or coordinates with other restoration plans covering the same geographic area:

Other plan names:

Plan contains detailed information on historic and/or current habitat size, rate of loss, acres restored or protected, etc.):

Y

Summary of this habitat information:

The Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve can be characterized as representative of the greater Mobile Bay system and the Mississippi delta subcategory of the Louisiana biogeographic province. Habitats included in the Reserve are tidal wetlands and swamps, salt marshes, aquatic grass beds, maritime and palustrine upland forests, a pitcher plant bog and benthic estuarine sediments. It is an environment of great importance to the eastern Mobile Bay system and possesses numerous species of plants and animals, including rare, threatened and endangered species such as the brown pelican, eastern indigo snake, and Alabama red-bellied turtle. It is a highly productive area that serves as a nursery for commercially important shellfish and finfish, as well as a diverse array of other flora and fauna. Weeks Bay acts as a filter for pollutants, provides shoreline stabilization, and offers recreational and educational opportunities for the people of this coastal area. The Reserve is located in south Baldwin County and includes five tracts of state-owned land. It also includes the 4,706 acres of state-owned water bottom (submerged lands) consisting of Weeks Bay, portions of Fish and Magnolia Rivers, and 2,523 acres in Bon Secour Bay.