

## Mississippi Sound Watershed

SeaGrant Education and Outreach (MS\_RESTORE\_001\_011\_Cat1)



**Project Name:** Education and Outreach of Strategic Land Protection, Conservation, and

Enhancement Benefits to The Gulf of Mexico - Planning & Implementation

**Cost:** Category 1: \$750,000

Responsible Council Member: State of Mississippi

Partnering Council Members: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection

Agency, and Department of the Interior

**Project Details:** This project develops an Extension, Outreach and Education (EOE) program in Mississippi to ensure that the objectives and purposes of land conservation towards habitat stewardship and water quality improvement are being met by the State of Mississippi. By funding EOE activities with interested groups that have critical roles in land conservation and restoration, this project will serve as a pilot project for the Council to consider expanding Gulf-wide when future funds become available.

**Activities:** Deliverables of the project include building a state-specific EOE group in Mississippi including members for extension (Land Grant and Sea Grant programs), outreach (communicators from land acquisition programs), educators (K-12 and higher education) and state representatives to establish EOE priorities in Mississippi; coordinating the development of and execution of a competitive process to fund EOE programs under the advisement of the established EOE group; and coordinating and collaborating on a Gulf-wide EOE conference on land protection and conservation in year three. During the conference, grant recipients can meet to review EOE deliverables and products and to create EOE partnerships for future collaborations in land protection and conservation.

This EOE program will be coordinated with the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium (MASGC) as well as the Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation (PGCLC). Both organizations can facilitate a small grants program. The Mississippi Sound Estuarine Program could also administer these activities (funded under a separate grant contract).

**Environmental Benefits:** Through this project the State of Mississippi and the Council are looking to invest in outreach and education that will further stewardship of our natural resources. Multiple community groups, public and private schools, individuals, and members of the public will benefit from these EOE deliverables.

**Duration:** The planning project is expected to take three years to complete.

More information on this activity can be found in Appendix E. Mississippi Sound; Unique Identifier: MS RESTORE 001 011 Cat1.

