



Draft 2026 FUNDED PRIORITIES LIST

Wind-Tidal Flat Restoration Pilot, Phase 2 (Amending Existing Project)

The *Wind-Tidal Flat Restoration Pilot, Phase 2* project led by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service was approved by the RESTORE Council in the FPL 3b in 2021. In FY 2026, the Council proposes to build on this pilot, which focuses on restoring wind-tidal flat habitats at Padre Island National Seashore.

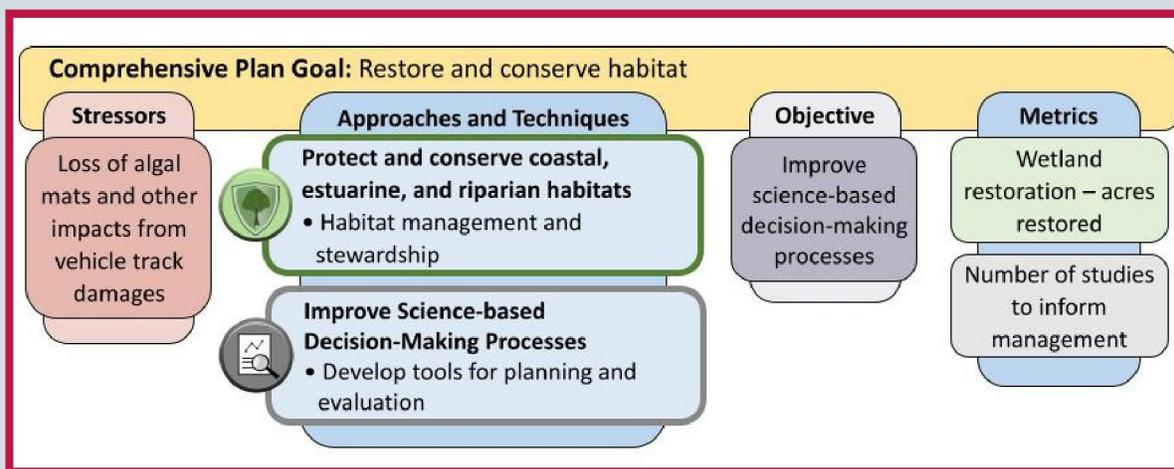
In this expanded effort, the DOI is requesting \$1.2M to build upon the pilot to map and assess the overall distribution and conditions of wind tidal flat habitats at Padre Island National Seashore and conduct on-the-ground restoration targeting areas that have sustained damage over time. A cost-benefit analysis will be conducted to estimate costs of using the selected restoration approach over a large scale.

The wind-tidal flat areas at Padre Island National Seashore are significant in that they protect portions of the largest freshwater wetland in Texas, conserve protected species and provide wintering habitat for millions of migratory birds. These important habitats have been impaired over time. This project aims to both scale up and redefine the methods tested in the pilot by using drones with advanced multispectral imaging technology to improve the accuracy of wind-tidal flat mapping and by applying field-tested “best practices” for restoration identified in the pilot.

A document of lessons-learned will be created to share with resource managers across the Gulf and to inform future management decisions regarding conservation and restoration of wind-tidal flat habitats. The project supports the RESTORE Council’s goal of restoring and conserving habitat. The project duration is 3 years.

Project at a Glance

The *Wind-Tidal Flat Restoration Pilot, Phase 2* project applies Planning Framework approaches and techniques to support Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. In support of the primary objective, to *Improve science-based decision-making processes*, stressors such as the loss of algal mats and other impacts from vehicle track damages will be addressed using the *Habitat management and stewardship* and the *Develop tools for planning and evaluation* techniques. Success using these techniques to *Improve science-based decision-making* may be tracked using the number of studies developed to inform management as a metric, while acres of wetland restored may also be used to track the success of efforts to *Restore and conserve habitat* through *Habitat management and stewardship*.

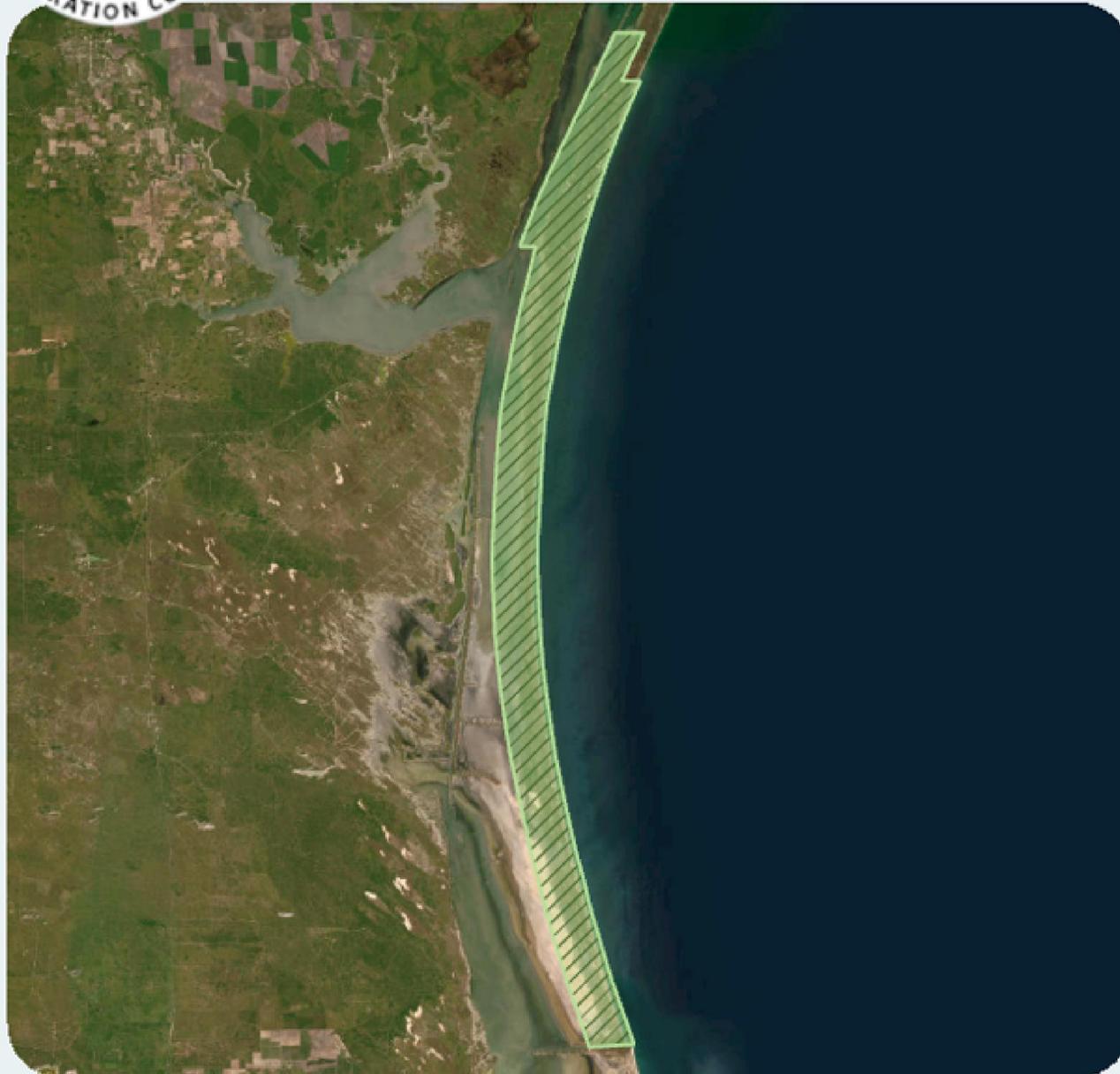


**Draft FPL 2026 Public Comment Period:
November 20 - 11:59 PM MT January 2, 2026**

Visit restorethegulf.gov for info on public meetings & how to comment.



Wind-Tidal Flat Restoration Pilot, Phase 2



2026 FPL

*U.S. Department
of the Interior*

Coastal Texas



Wind-Tidal Flat Restoration Pilot,
Phase 2



0 4 9 10 mi
0 6 10 20 km