



**Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council
Finding of No Significant Impact
West End Dauphin Island, Alabama Renourishment and Resilience - Implementation**

The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) hereby adopts the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Environmental Assessment (EA) included in the statement of findings for USACE permit SAM-2024-00553-DJL approved on December 8, 2025. The Council adopts the EA in order to address requirements of the *National Environmental Policy Act* (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.) (NEPA) associated with the approval of implementation funding for the West End Dauphin Island, Alabama Renourishment and Resilience (Dauphin Island project) sponsored by the State of Alabama.

The Dauphin Island project is included in the Council’s 2026 Funded Priorities List (FPL). From November 20, 2025 to January 2, 2026, the Council sought public comment on the 2026 FPL. The Council received multiple comments in support of the Dauphin Island project and one comment raising concerns. The Council addressed these comments in its June 2026 document entitled: *RESTORE Council Draft 2026 Funded Priorities List Responses to Comments*.

The Council has reviewed the EA and determined that it addresses the environmental effects of the Dauphin Island project. The Council has determined that approval of funding for the Dauphin Island project would not result in a significant effect on the human environment. The following is a brief description of the Dauphin Island project, the EA being adopted by the Council, and contact information pertaining to this action.

Funded Activity

The Council has approved \$38 million in funding for the West End Dauphin Island, Alabama renourishment and Resilience project, sponsored by the State of Alabama, to restore approximately 200 acres of critical barrier island habitat. This includes rebuilding 3.5 miles of linear dune, 40 acres of sandy water bottoms and 160 acres of beach and dune habitat. Restoring this area will help protect valuable estuarine habitats in the Mississippi Sound such as seagrasses, oyster beds and salt marshes. It will also protect 30,000 acres of mainland conservation land and nearby coastal communities that are vulnerable to storms and flooding. The Dauphin Island project supports the primary Comprehensive Plan goal of replenishing and protecting living coastal and marine resources. This habitat restoration project will also provide for the enhancement of community resilience. The Dauphin Island project’s duration is 5 years.

More information on the RESTORE Act and the 2026 FPL can be found at www.restorethegulf.gov.

Environmental Assessment Adopted

The EA is hereby incorporated by reference into this Council finding, consistent with the Council’s NEPA Procedures (May 6, 2026). Prepared pursuant to NEPA, the EA analyzes the environmental impacts and cumulative effects of and alternatives for the Dauphin Island project. Additional environmental compliance coordination was completed for the *Endangered Species Act (ESA)*, the *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA)*, the *National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)* and other applicable laws during the environmental evaluation process for USACE Clean Water Act permit SAM-2024-00553-DJL.

Environmental Conditions

In addition to NEPA, the Council has an independent responsibility to comply with all other applicable Federal laws. To ensure compliance with ESA, MSA, NHPA and other relevant laws, the Council will require that the sponsor of the project adhere to all applicable conditions in the EA, USACE permit authorization and the associated environmental compliance documents. Compliance with these conditions is mandatory and serves to limit the environmental effects of an action to those that are insignificant, discountable or beneficial, and do not result in take or adverse effects to designated critical habitat. The Dauphin Island project sponsor is also responsible for ensuring that any contractors that may work on this project are aware of and comply with all environmental compliance requirements.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on an independent review of the information and analysis provided in the EA, the Council hereby issues this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Dauphin Island project. The EA is incorporated herein by reference. The Council has authorized the Executive Director of the Council to execute the FONSI on its behalf.

Determination by Responsible Official

I have determined that the Dauphin Island project would not have a significant effect on the human environment.

Mary S. Walker
Executive Director, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

(Signature) _____

For Further Information

For further information, please contact John Ettinger, Director of Policy and Environmental Compliance, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, at (504) 444-3522 or by e-mail at john.ettinger@restorethegulf.gov.