

BOEMRE Approves \$1.6 Million in Grants for Five Alabama Projects

Grants Advance Conservation and Restoration Efforts in Coastal Counties

NEW ORLEANS – The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) announced today that it has approved a total of \$1,664,913 in five separate grants to the State of Alabama through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). The funding for these projects will enable the ongoing protection and conservation of properties within a critical watershed for southern Alabama.

Created by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, CIAP provides funding to the six Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas producing states to conserve and protect the coastal environment. CIAP is an ongoing program with grant funding that is allocated based on the offshore energy revenues collected by the United States.

“BOEMRE’s continued support for essential conservation and preservation initiatives, such as these five projects, is critical to Alabama’s coastal communities,” said BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich. “With these grants, we are able to partner with the state and coastal communities to restore and preserve our fragile environment for generations to come.”

- A \$202,013 grant for wetlands restoration will be used to assess the distribution and movement of water within the Lillian Swamp area, approximately 50 miles east of Mobile, Ala. A permanent monitoring system will be established to observe and document changes in the hydrology of the swamp. This data collected will aid in future land management decisions and restoration projects at this location.
- A \$185,850 grant for equipment and infrastructure improvements will be used for the reimbursement of the cost of an amphibious excavator used to clear fire lanes essential for the successful management and restoration of natural areas in Baldwin and Mobile counties.
- A \$307,076 grant for freshwater mollusk and fish enhancement and restoration will be used to undertake large-scale recovery activities for freshwater mussels, fishes and other aquatic species populations in the gulf coastal drainages of Baldwin and Mobile counties.
- A \$769,974 grant will be used for the reimbursement of the construction of the Gulf State Park Nature Center in Gulf Shores, Ala. The project includes costs associated with the design and installation of 10 hands-on exhibits for the Center and the engineering and design of an adjacent classroom facility.
- A \$200,000 grant will be used to fund a two-year project to develop a comprehensive geospatial information system-compatible database of existing oil and gas infrastructure located in Alabama state waters. Included in the database will be information on the history of leases such as the “as built” pipeline, gathering line, and platform data for Alabama state waters, and onshore pipeline and processing facility information.

CIAP will receive \$250 million in appropriated funds for each of the Fiscal Years 2007-2010 to be disbursed to six eligible OCS oil and gas producing states – Mississippi, Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana and Texas.

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