

SOUTHERN FORESTS PROJECT

MISSISSIPPI

The Nature Conservancy and International Paper have undertaken a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect ecologically important forests, rivers and streams in 10 southern states. The Nature Conservancy will acquire more than 218,000 acres in the largest private land conservation project in the history of the southern U.S. Partners include state governments, federal agencies, the Department of Defense and timber investment entities.



THE PROJECT

The project consists of the Harrison County Eagle Nest property and a second tract of marsh in the Biloxi River marshes. The two tracts total 110 acres of wetlands that periodically flood with brackish water from the Biloxi and Tchoutacabouffa rivers. Wetlands and marshes serve many important ecological functions and can reduce the wind and rising water effects of a hurricane.

Partnering with the Conservancy are Secretary of State Eric Clark and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. Since 1996, the Conservancy, Secretary Clark and the Department of Marine Resources have partnered in the Coastal Preserve Program to preserve more than 15,000 acres of sensitive coastal lands along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The Nature Conservancy will acquire title to the land and transfer it to Clark on behalf of the State of Mississippi. The property will be managed by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

The Tchoutacabouffa River and Biloxi River marshes are priority areas for The Nature Conservancy. The area is comprised of diverse marsh communities centered on Big Lake, and extend up the lower reaches of the Biloxi and Tchoutacabouffa rivers and Bernard Bayou.



total area 110 acres
Harrison County Eagle Nest and Marsh

representative species

mottled duck
needle rush
coatal shiner
duck-potato
malaclemys terrapin pilea
white pelican
smooth cordgrass
brown pelican
salt meadow grass
water lily beds
coontail
pickerelweed
osprey
cormorants

project partners

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