



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Coastal Program in South Carolina

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program works with partners to voluntarily protect, restore, and enhance priority fish and wildlife habitat. We are a non-regulatory, partnerships-driven program that achieves our conservation mission by providing a combination of technical and financial assistance to our partners. In South Carolina, we primarily work within geographic focus areas that overlay the lower portions of the 5 major coastal watersheds (Winyah Bay, Santee River, CAWS Basin, ACE Basin, and Savannah River).



A wide range of ecological communities exists throughout South Carolina. The Coastal Program is most interested in working in estuarine and tidal freshwater,

maritime strand, longleaf pine, freshwater wetland, and river and palustrine forested wetland communities occurring within our focus areas. Focusing on these communities benefits a variety of priority Federal Trust species such as: bald eagle, wood stork, swallow-tailed kite, American oystercatcher, piping plover, loggerhead sea turtle, sea-beach amaranth, painted bunting, red-cockaded woodpecker, flatwoods salamander, pondberry, Canby's dropwort, chaff-seed, red knot, and other migratory birds.



The Coastal Program participates in a variety of projects including, but not limited to:

- coastal wetland restoration
- oyster reef restoration
- voluntary habitat protection (e.g., fee title acquisition or conservation easements)
- invasive species control and removal
- dune restoration

- longleaf pine restoration
- strategic habitat planning

How we work:

The Coastal Program is a direct Federal assistance program, providing technical and/or financial assistance for approved Coastal Program projects. We partner with private landowners, non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, and others to achieve on the ground projects. Projects are funded on a continuous basis; there is no application deadline. There is also no match requirement for individual projects, although we aim to achieve a match ratio of 1:1 for the overall program. Projects are selected based upon a number of factors, most importantly biological significance and consistency with the overall goals of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Coastal Program. Typical award amounts range between \$5,000 and \$50,000 per project. If Coastal Program funds will be used to support a project, a cooperative agreement (similar to a grant agreement) is developed between the parties involved. Coastal Program funds

cannot be used to provide compensatory mitigation or directly acquire real property.



For more information, contact:

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