



The Coastal Program in South Carolina

Protecting and restoring coastal habitat

<https://www.fws.gov/charleston/coastal.html>

About the Program

The Coastal Program is a partnership-driven program that conserves natural habitat and protects federally listed species throughout the coastal areas by assisting private, municipal, and state government partners through financial and technical assistance. In South Carolina, the program is focused on the coastal plain and works in a variety of habitats, including wetlands, uplands, estuaries, and beaches.



Tidal freshwater wetlands of the South Carolina Lowcountry; Photo credit/USFWS

Habitat Protection

The Coastal Program supports the protection of private lands of significant ecological value with conservation easements. An easement is a voluntary legal restriction that limits future development on a property while maintaining current land use by the owner while preserving the site's natural resources. An easement is held by a nonprofit organization called a land trust. The Coastal Program works with land trusts to identify and assess potential easement properties and support their future management.

Protecting threatened, endangered and at-risk species

The Coastal Program works with public agencies and private landowners to improve habitat and survey for species that

are currently listed under the Endangered Species Act or species with conservation threats that can be prevented from federal protection by proactive efforts. Examples of species we work with include:

- Red-cockaded woodpecker
- Gopher tortoise
- Monarch butterfly
- Eastern black rail
- MacGillivray's seaside sparrow
- Wood stork
- Piping plover
- Southern hognose snake

Restoration

The Coastal Program funds a variety of restoration projects that improve habitat for wildlife species and engage the public in wildlife conservation. Examples of previous projects include:

- Oyster reef establishment
- Wetland restoration
- Native wildflower meadows
- Longleaf pine habitat
- Invasive species control



South Carolina Coastal Program staff working with partners on restoring endangered species; Photo credit/USFWS

Volunteer opportunities

Large-scale group volunteer opportunities include participation in oyster reef builds

and large coastal cleanups. There are also opportunities for students and individuals with particular conservation interest.



South Carolina Coastal Program staff working with partners on coastal clean-ups and oyster reef build; Photo credit/Rudy Socha

Application Process

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Projects are selected based upon a number of factors, most importantly biological significance and consistency with the overall goals of the Coastal Program.



MacGillivray's seaside sparrow; Photo credit/USFWS

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