

THE NEWS ROOM

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## **BOEMRE Awards More Than \$6.9 Million for Alabama Conservation Project**

*Funds Will Preserve More Than 2,000 Acres Along Perdido River*

**NEW ORLEANS** – The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) announced today that it has awarded a \$6,957,000 Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) grant to the state of Alabama. The funding will be used towards the purchase of 2,782 acres along the Perdido River for the conservation and preservation of natural waterway systems, wetland forests and estuarine sea life in the Longleaf Hills and Perdido Bay area of coastal Baldwin County.

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.

“The conservation of our valuable wetlands, waterways and sensitive sea life habitats is crucial for our coastal states,” said BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich. “CIAP grants such as this enable us to partner with coastal states to fund vital environmental protection initiatives that will preserve our fragile ecosystems. We are pleased to award this grant to the State of Alabama.”

The Perdido River Longleaf Hills acquisition was initiated to preserve the high quality of water in its free-flowing blackwater river system, which includes forests of longleaf pines trees, slash pine flatwoods, Atlantic white cedar swamps and pitcher plant seepage bogs.

The conservation project will also help safeguard the diversity of estuarine sea life in Perdido Bay including dolphins, dwarf seahorses, manatees and coastal arch grasses. In addition, it will protect and conserve vital wetlands and sensitive habitats in the northern bay area and along the Perdido River.

CIAP received \$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: Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

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