

Ecosystem Restoration Volunteer Opportunities

FDEP's Ecosystem Restoration Section offers many volunteer opportunities during our standard work hours Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30. Limited weekend volunteer opportunities are available and are dependent upon ERS staff schedule. If available, these activities must be arranged with ERS staff at least 2-3 weeks prior to the event. To volunteer please contact appropriate ERS staff listed with project descriptions below, for further questions please contact Beth Fugate at Beth.L.Fugate or call at (850) 595-0683 or Zachary Schang at Zachary.Schang@dep.state.fl.us or call at (850) 595-0599. To view our website please visit: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/northwest/Ecosys/section/restoration.htm>

Oyster Restoration

Project goals seek to increase native oyster populations within the Pensacola Bay System. Our current project involves restoration of 22 acres of oyster habitat along 2 miles of shoreline at the southern end of the Garcon Point peninsula providing essential fish habitat and reducing shoreline erosion. Volunteer duties may include:

- Collect oyster shell from partner restaurants;
- Preparation of oyster shell for deployment;
- Deployment of shell at Garcon Point restoration site in East Bay;
- Monitor oyster spat settlement, sediment accretion, and water quality;

Note: Participant should wear outdoor work clothing



Interested volunteers should contact Dominic Marcanio at Dominic.Marcanio@dep.state.fl.us or call (850) 475-5590.

Seagrass Restoration

Project goals seek to restore seagrass beds within the Pensacola Bay system. Volunteer duties may include:

- Collect seagrass *Ruppia maritima* and initiate to lab;
- Micropropagate seagrass *R.maritima* in tissue propagation laboratory;
- Laboratory maintenance activities;
- Planting of seagrass mats at Project GreenShores/other locations in the Pensacola Bay System.
- Monitor seagrass sites;

Note: For planned field days participant should wear outdoor work clothing with appropriate water shoes.



Interested volunteers should contact Ashlynn O'Connor at Ashlynn.O'Connor@dep.state.fl.us or call (850) 595-0628.

Saltmarsh Restoration

In association with the Living Shoreline Initiative (LSI), saltmarsh restoration specialists restore saltmarsh habitat within the panhandle to provide habitat, improve water quality, and reduce shoreline erosion. The LSI was created to promote natural shoreline stabilization rather than hard stabilization such as seawalls and bulkheads that destroy riparian habitat and negatively impact the health of a water body. Volunteer duties may include:

- Collection of saltmarsh species from permitted collection sites;
- Propagation of salt marsh vegetation at DEP Greenhouse;
- Greenhouse maintenance activities;
- Planting of saltmarsh vegetation at selected restoration sites.

Note: Participants should wear outdoor work clothing



Interested volunteers should contact Zach Schang at Zachary.Schang@dep.state.fl.us at 850-595-0599.

Perdido Key Beach Mouse Dune Restoration

Project goals seek to grow dune vegetation to create habitat corridors and food supply for the endangered Perdido Key Beach Mouse. Volunteer duties may include:

- Collection of native dune plant species;
- Propagation of dune plants at DEP greenhouse;
- Greenhouse maintenance activities;
- Planting dune vegetation at selected restoration sites on Perdido Key.

Note: Participants should wear outdoor clothing



Interested volunteers should contact Beth Fugate at Beth.L.Fugate@dep.state.fl.us or call (850) 595-0683.

Beach Shoreline Restoration

Project seeks to grow native vegetation for shoreline and dune restoration at Naval Air Station Pensacola. Volunteer duties may include:

- Collection of native dune vegetation;
- Propagation of dune vegetation at DEP greenhouse;
- Greenhouse maintenance activities;
- Planting vegetation at NAS Pensacola.

Note: Participants should wear outdoor clothing



Interested volunteers should contact Leah McCue at Leah.McCue@dep.state.fl.us or call (850) 475-5590.