

Appendix A Management and Regulations

▪ Alabama Coastal Area Management Program

Alabama Coastal Area Management Program (ACAMP)¹ has been in effect since it was approved in 1979. The ACAMP is required to identify and evaluate the State's coastal resources, determine the present and potential uses and conflicts of those resources, inventory and designate areas of particular concern within the coastal area, and establish guidelines on priority of uses. . A major focus of the plan includes public outreach efforts such as Adopt-A-Beach, Boaters and Anglers Pledge Program, Annual Coastal Cleanup, National Marine Debris Monitoring Program, and Semi-annual Underwater Cleanup.

Figure A-1 : Dune Restoration Sign



Management Entity:

The ACAMP is implemented by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR). ADCNR is responsible for planning activities while ADEM is responsible for permitting, monitoring and enforcement activities.

Program Description and Components:

The ACAMP identifies specific areas that have received special designation. These designations are Geographic Area of Particular Concern (GAPCs), Areas of Preservation and Restoration (APRs) and Gulf Ecological Management Sites (GEMS). These are discussed in detail below:

¹ Primary Source of Information - Alabama Department of Environmental Management website, <http://www.adem.state.al.us/fieldops/coastal/coastal.htm>

- Geographic Areas of Particular Concern (GAPC) are “areas that are recognized as being under development pressure and requiring specific attention.”² The following proposed GAPCs are related to the Coastal Connection Scenic Byway:
 - Gulf of Mexico Shoreline (proposed) - The Gulf of Mexico Shoreline protects the natural beach and dune system that is vital to the coastal area. Uses, except those of regional benefit are, that can potentially have a negative impact on the position or stability of the shoreline are discouraged along the Gulf of Mexico shoreline. Specifically, construction of piers and related pile-supported structure with limited regional benefit are discouraged from being constructed.
 - Weeks Bay Coastal Area (proposed) – This area includes Weeks Bay and extended boundaries of the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. This area is located in Baldwin County and the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Weeks Bay is a shallow sub-estuary of Mobile Bay and includes several habitats like tidal wetlands and swamps, salt marshes, aquatic grassbeds and maritime forests. Weeks Bay is also a natural filter for pollutants and helps stabilize the shoreline. Uses that are encouraged include those that protect and restore habitats and diversity within the Reserve, are compatible with the Reserve’s goals of research, education and resource protection and those that maintain and improve water quality. Uses that are discouraged are those that negatively impact the wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation.
 - Mon Louis Island (proposed) – This Island consists of approximately 14,600 acres, of which nearly 75 percent is wetlands. The southern portion of the Island has the largest undeveloped contiguous block of the coastal salt march in Alabama. The ACAMP recognizes this Island as unique and culturally significant and discourages all activities which will significantly alter the critical habitat in the area.
- Areas of Preservation and Restoration (APR) are “areas that are pristine or representative of natural systems and deserve special attention.”³ These areas have special conservation, recreational or ecological value and APR designation recognizes that they deserve special regulatory provisions for preservation. The following recognized or proposed APRs are related to the Coastal Connection Scenic Byway:
 - (i) Audubon Sanctuary – This Sanctuary consists of 159 acres of land owned by Mobile County and preserved in its natural state. The sanctuary is a habitat for migratory birds as well as terrestrial and semi-aquatic species. The APR designation for this area discourages all activities that are inconsistent with the goals and objectives of the sanctuary.
 - (ii) Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve – As discussed above, Weeks Bay has several unique and environmentally sensitive characteristics which are recognized through the APR designation.

² Primary Source of Information - Special Designations, Section 5, Alabama Coastal Area Management Plan

³ Primary Source of Information - Special Designations, Section 5, Alabama Coastal Area Management Plan

Figure A-2 : Weeks Bay Signage

- (iii) Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge (proposed) – The Refuge includes 6,500 acres of land and is home to numerous species including the endangered Alabama beach mouse and migratory birds. The APR designation discourages all activities that are not consistent with the goals and objectives of the wildlife refuge or those that would significantly alter the refuge’s natural state.
- Gulf Ecological Management Sites are part of an initiative undertaken by the five Gulf of Mexico states and the US Environmental Protection Agency’s Gulf of Mexico Program to identify significant ecological sites and provide support and awareness for their protection and management. The ACAMP coordinates Alabama’s efforts as they relate to the GEMS program. This program identifies the following sites related to the Coastal Connection Scenic Byway:
 - (i) South Mon Louis Island Salt Marsh – This Marsh is approximately 9,000 acres and is located in south Mobile County. The Mon Louis Island bog is the most threatened habitat on the island and contains a diverse array of plant species.
 - (ii) Bon Secour Wildlife Refuge
 - (iii) Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
 - (iv) Orange Beach Maritime Forest – The Forest includes nearly 600 acres of land and is adjacent to the Gulf State Park in Orange Beach. It contains numerous animal species including the endangered ones.

The Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust

The Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust⁴ was established in 1993 through an amendment to the State’s constitution with the goal of protecting Alabama’s coastline.

Management Entity:

⁴ Primary Source of Information - Alabama’s Forever Wild Program, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources website, <http://www.outdooralabama.com/public-lands/stateLands/foreverWild/>

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is the lead agency that manages lands acquired by the State. Separate management plans are developed for each tract.

Program Description and Components:

Since its inception, the Program has purchased lands for general recreation, nature preserves, and additions to Wildlife Management Areas and state parks. The Program has acquired about 52 tracts throughout the State. One of these tracts adjacent to the Coastal Connection Byway is the Weeks Bay Reserve Tract that consists of an 11 acres parcel. This tract is comprised of forest and marsh wetland habitats.

The Alabama Artificial Reef Program

The Alabama Artificial Reef Program⁵ aims to increase fishing opportunities within Alabama's inshore waters and provide nursery areas for oyster protection.

Management Entity:

This Program is managed by the Marine Resources Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The DCNR also has regulatory authority over the placement of inshore artificial reefs while a permit must be obtained from the Marine Resources Division or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for offshore artificial reefs.

Program Description and Components:

Alabama's Artificial Reef Program is currently the largest in the United States. Since 1997, the US Army Corp of Engineers have authorizes greater expansion of the reef construction areas. Consequently, the total area for all reef permit zones now encompasses 1260 square miles. A total of 10 reefs have been constructed in Mobile Bay, and the Mississippi Sound. Several of these reefs are located close to Dauphin Island as well as Fort Morgan.

Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve⁶ was created through the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. It was established to protect Weeks Bay for long-term research, water quality monitoring, education and coastal stewardship.

Management Entity:

The Reserve is managed by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) with support from the non-profit group Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation.

Program Description and Components:

⁵ Primary Source of Information - Alabama's Artificial Reef Program website, <http://www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/saltwater/where/artificial-reefs/>

⁶ Primary Source of Information - Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation website, <http://www.weeksbay.org/>

Weeks Bay NERR is spread over 6000 acres of land located between Mobile (Alabama) and Pensacola (Florida) and includes a variety of habitats like marsh, swamp and forested wetlands. A detailed Plan is put into place for Weeks Bay by ADCNR. The Reserve is assisted by several advisory committees and volunteers who assist with water quality monitoring, conducting programs for school classes and landscaping.

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP)⁷ was created through the National Estuary Program. It is one of 28 National Estuary Programs in the country. The goal of MBNEP is to promote wise stewardship of water quality characteristics and the living resource base of the Mobile Bay estuarine system.

Management Entity:

The MBNEP is an example of a Federal-State cooperative program. The Program is non-regulatory and is implemented through a partnership among citizens, local, state and federal government agencies, businesses and industries, conservation and environmental organizations and academic institutions. A Policy and Management Committee identifies policies and goals for the MBNEP which are then implemented by individual authorities with jurisdictional powers.

Program Description and Components:

The MBNEP focuses on those portions of the Mobile Bay Estuary that lie within Baldwin and Mobile counties. In all, Mobile Bay Estuary lies in the four states of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Texas. The Estuary contains a wide variety of habitat types that support a number of endangered and threatened species. Through funding from EPA under the provisions of the Clean Water Act of 1987, the MBNEP developed a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan that was approved in 2002. Since then, the MBNEP has been implementing the provisions of that Plan.

Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge

Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge⁸ was officially established by Congress in 1980 as a habitat for birds migrating south. The goal of the Refuge is to conserve the undisturbed beach ecosystem and the threatened endangered species located within the Refuge and to provide public recreational opportunities.

Management Entity:

The Refuge is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS). The US FWS coordinates with other entities when possible.

Program Description and Components:

The Refuge consists of 6,700 acres of wildlife habitat on the Fort Morgan peninsula. It is also home to the Alabama beach mouse and includes habitats such as beaches, sand dunes,

⁷ Primary Source of Information - Mobile Bay NEP's website - <http://www.mobilebaynep.com/>

⁸ Primary Source of Information - Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge website, <http://www.fws.gov/bonsecour/>

scrub forest, fresh and saltwater marshes, fresh water swamps and uplands. A Comprehensive Conservation Plan was prepared for the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge to guide management actions and provide direction for the Refuge. The Plan serves “as an operational guide for managing the Refuge, for achieving the Refuge purposes; for attaining the vision and goals developed for the Refuge; for contributing to the National Wildlife Refuge System mission; and for addressing key problems, issues, and relevant mandates.”⁹ Since it was established, the Refuge has repeatedly emphasized land acquisition as a conservation priority, depending on available acquisition funding.

Gulf State Park Designation

The Gulf State Park was designated in 1935 with the goal of managing the land and resources for the enjoyment and benefit of the public.

Management Entity:

The Park is managed by Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Program Description and Components:

Gulf State Park is spread over 6,000 acres of land and has 2.5 miles of white sand beaches. The Park is governed by Alabama Administrative Code regulations pertaining to state parks.

Fort Morgan Master Plan

The Fort Morgan Master Plan¹⁰ was prepared for the Alabama Historical Commission with the goal of creating an immersive and comprehensive learning environment to communicate the history behind the Battle of Mobile Bay.

Management Entity:

Being a National Historical Landmark, Fort Morgan falls under the jurisdiction of the Alabama Historical Commission. However the Fort Morgan Master Plan recommends that its implementation should be undertaken by forming partnerships with other agencies.

Program Description and Components:

Fort Morgan is a National Historical Landmark played a vital role in the Battle of Mobile Bay during the American Civil War. The acreage surrounding the Fort contains unique ecosystems that provide a habitat for birds, endangered species and plant communities. The Fort Morgan Master Plan is a 25 year phased plan that recommends restoration of the Fort, introduction of a modern museum and theater and preservation of the natural environment. The Master Plan focuses on interpretive and physical improvements to the Fort. The main elements of the Master Plan are centered on four key areas:

- The Fort
- Nature Area

⁹ Primary Source of Information - Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan, US Fish and Wildlife Service – Southeast Region, November 2005

¹⁰ Primary Source of Information - Fort Morgan Master Plan, Prepared for the Alabama Historical Commission, 2005

- Village where
- Dune Habitat

A business plan developed for the Fort seeks to offset the operating costs of the site and interpretive facilities with income generated by fee based programs.

City of Orange Beach Community Preservation and Growth Management Plan

The Orange Beach Community Preservation and Growth Management Plan¹¹ is the City's comprehensive plan for the years 2007-2020. The basis for this Plan was a visioning plan – Horizons 202/20 created by the City Council from four special interest groups of citizens. These interest groups were:

- Zoning/ Land Use Interest Group
- Environment Interest Group
- Quality of Life Interest Group
- Transportation Interest Group

Management Entity:

The City of Orange Beach Planning Division administers the Comprehensive Plan.

Program Description and Components:

The mission of the Comprehensive Plan is to maintain and advance Orange Beach as a Resort Destination through a series of measures. The Plan provides several recommendations related to the following categories

- Population and Economy
- Land Use
- Housing
- Transportation
- Community Facilities and Services
- Utilities

¹¹ Primary Source of Information - City of Orange Beach Community Preservation and Growth Management Plan, Adopted November 2006

Appendix B Funding Opportunities – Contact Directory

▪ Transportation Enhancement Funds

The contact information for the State coordinator in the Alabama Department of Transportation for the Transportation Enhancement program is listed below.

Name Robert Kratzer, TE Program Coordinator

Address Bureau of Transportation Planning and Modal Programs
Alabama Department of Transportation
1100 John Overton Drive
Montgomery, AL 36110

Telephone 334-353-6442

Fax 334-353-6451

E-Mail kratzerr@dot.state.al.us

▪ Recreational Trails Program

The contact information for the State coordinator for the Recreational Trails Program is listed below:

Name Rob Grant, Recreation Programs Manager

Address Dept of Economic & Community Affairs
Street: 401 Adams Ave Suite 580
Montgomery AL 36104
Mail: PO Box 5690
Montgomery AL 36103-5690

Telephone 334-242-5483

Fax 334-353-3381

E-Mail rob.grant@adeca.alabama.gov

An application for the Program is available at this web address:

<http://www.adeca.state.al.us/C16/Recreational%20Trails/default.aspx>

▪ National Scenic Byways Discretionary Grants Program

The contact information for the State coordinator of the National Scenic Byway Program is listed below:

Name Mary Lou Crenshaw, State Coordinator

Address Alabama Department of Transportation
Environmental Section
1100 John Overton Dr.
Montgomery, AL 36110

Telephone 334-353-6439

Fax 334-269-0826

E-Mail crenshawm@dot.state.al.us

An application for the Program is available at this web address:
<http://www.bywaysonline.org/grants/application/>

▪ **Coastal Impact Assistance Funding**

The contact information for the Coastal Impact Assistance Funding is listed below:

Name Will Brantley

Address Alabama State Lands Division, Department of
Conservation and Natural Resources
64 North Union Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Telephone 334-242-3484

Fax 334-242-0999

or

Name Cara Stallman

Address Alabama State Lands Division, Department of
Conservation and Natural Resources
Five Rivers Alabama's Delta Resource Center
30945 Five Rivers Boulevard
Spanish Fort, AL 36527

Telephone 251-625-0814

Fax 251-625-0864

▪ **Sea Grant Funding**

The contact information for the Sea Grant Funding is listed below:

Name Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium

Address 703 East Beach Drive
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
Telephone 228-818-8836
Fax 228-818-8841

▪ **Working Waterfronts Funding**

The contact information for the Working Waterfronts Funding is listed below:

Name Dr. Richard Wallace
Address Alabama Sea Grant Extension Program
Auburn University
4170 Commanders Drive
Mobile, AL 36615
Telephone 251-438-5690
Fax 251-438-5670

or

Name Dr. LaDon Swann, Director
Address Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium
703 East Beach Blvd.
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
Telephone 228-818-8843
Fax 228-818-8841

or

Name Dr. Louis D'Abramo, Associate Director
Address Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium,
Mississippi State University,
P.O. Box 9690,
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Telephone 662-325-7492
Fax 662-324-8276

The Request for Proposal document is available at:
<http://www.masgc.org/funding/Working%20Waterfront%20RFP.pdf>

For more information on the Working Waterfronts, visit:
<http://www.masgc.org/workingwaterfronts/>

▪ **Community Development Block Grant Program**

The contact information for the Community Development Block Grant Program is listed below:

Name Community Development Block Grant Program

Address Alabama Department of Economic and
Community Affairs
P.O. Box 5690
Montgomery, AL 36103-5690

Telephone 334-242-0492

Fax 334-353-3527

Appendix C Stakeholder Comments

Stakeholder Comments from meeting at the Convention and Visitor's Bureau in Orange Beach on 23rd February, 2007

Intrinsic Resources	Threats to corridor's Intrinsic Resources	Resource Projection Mechanisms	Marketing Strategy
Segment 1			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forever Wild • Pecan Festival • Ship Buildings (BLB) • Shrimping (BLB) • Pirate History • Seafood Industry • Civil War History • Bellingrath Gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popularity leads to development that degrades Byway • Lack of Investment (Seafood Industry) • Do not loose "Bayou" street • Long term need for roadway improvements (operations & capacity) • Imperious surface • Lack of zoning • Development • Lack of access management • Signage • Coastal erosion / loss of wetlands • Coastal storms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning ordinance/ signage • Land acquisition programs • Setbacks/ buffer • Coastal zone management • Coastal zone asst. program • Access management program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canoe and Kayaking Trail • Capitalize on Birding Trail • History of Bayou La Batre • Seafood Capital of AL • Coastal Culture/ History • Working Waterfront Village • Birding
Segment 2			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oyster tonging/ collection • Fishing pier (Public) • Intra-coastal waterway • Scenic views (sunrise & sunset) • In-shore fishing (recreational fishing) • Bird sanctuary • Ferry • Shrimping Industry • Seafood dinning/ purchase • Alabama fishing rodeo • Oil and Gas industry & wells • Sand Island Lighthouse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development • Natural Threats /Hurricane • Too much signage • Mobile County Land Use Controls – not strong • Appropriation cuts • Ferry as critical component • Lack of economic drivers • Water quality • Lack of access management • Coastal erosion / loss of wetlands • Coastal storms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Planning and Zoning • Property Owners Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco-tourism • Birding • Fishing • Ferry • Beach • Historic

Intrinsic Resources	Threats to corridor's Intrinsic Resources	Resource Projection Mechanisms	Marketing Strategy
Segment 3			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach Access • Water Tower • Bon Secour Wildlife Refuge • Architecture • Sport Fishing • Bike Trail • Shrimp Festival 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development—Beach Views & Access Disappearing • Difficult to Locate Public Access • Protection of Wetlands • Traffic • Condos—Block Views • Development • Lack of access management • Signage • Coastal erosion / loss of wetlands • Coastal storms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber • Voluntary design guidelines • Context sensitive design • Public acquisition • Sign ordinances • Beach overlay district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleasure Island • Golf • Family Destination • Recreational Fishing • Beach • Biking • Birding
Segment 4			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Museum • Elberta • Foley • Magnolia Springs • Civil War History/Trail • Birding Trail • Medical Museum • Train Museum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversion of agricultural land to low density housing • How to tell the corridor story? • Agricultural land loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer of Development Rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection to Eastern Shore • “Old Alabama” • Historical • Heritage • Community • Educational • Birding

Intrinsic Resources	Threats to corridor's Intrinsic Resources	Resource Projection Mechanisms	Marketing Strategy
Segment 5			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Shore • Civic War Cemetery • Fairhope • Hike & Bike Trail • Five Rivers Resource Center • Arts & Craft Festival • Sailing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development • Lack of funding • Some communities do not want more visitors 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts & Craft • Water Views • Tie Trail into Delta Center • Birding

Stakeholder recommendations from meeting at the Convention and Visitor's Bureau in Orange Beach on 28th August, 2007

Guidelines/ Policies	Physical Improvements
Segment 1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate with Mobile County to improve subdivision regulations ▪ Support public policy to establish zoning to encourage planned development and protection of significant resources ▪ Develop and promote a set of voluntary guidelines for Planned Use Development and Context Sensitive Design ▪ Threats to current shrimping jobs present economic development opportunities as skill set of fishing jobs transitions to tour boats and fishing guides for tourism industry ▪ Pursue Sea Grants and Coastal Impact Assistance funding ▪ Support mechanism to protect water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote working waterfronts, seafood facilities, and docks like Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco that are destinations for fresh seafood ▪ Develop regulations for building materials to maintain aesthetic character ▪ Install sewer system in the short-term

Guidelines/ Policies	Physical Improvements
Segment 2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help to stop erosion and habitat loss by partnering with Federal, State, and local towns. Beaches that separate salt and fresh water are under threat as sea cuts channel into Lake area ▪ Ferry operations serve as a critical link in the Scenic Byway and must provide a consistent experience and maintain a reliable schedule ▪ Support zoning that creates working water fronts, shops, restaurants, and mixed-use developments ▪ Coordinate with the Dauphin Island Strategic Implementation Plan ▪ Develop a 'Working Waterfront' vision for Dauphin Island 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance public access beach signage ▪ Preserve and enhance public beach access ▪ Identify funding sources to stop deterioration of buildings and brickwork at Fort Gaines historic sites ▪ Improve Fort Gaines ▪ Coordinate with Federal, State and Local agencies to restore beaches on the east and west ends of Dauphin Island ▪ Evaluate ownership contract and existing ferry capacity, size, and frequency. Proactively assess future demand and respond with appropriate action to enhance ferry experience ▪ Develop mixed-use centers focused on waterfront activity and character of the area
Segment 3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support recreational bike trail activity and experience ▪ Promote Bon Secour Wildlife Refuge and support its expansion activities ▪ Pursue Coastal Impact Funding and seek out Historical commission support to fund improvement to historic sites ▪ Acquire Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) and partner with towns and existing agencies such as the Robinson Island Foundation to proactively purchase ESAs and other important natural and ecological assets ▪ Incorporate recommendations of the South Baldwin County Transit Plan ▪ Support DCNR/ Gulf State Park with development of Nature Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extend bike trail with landscape separation from vehicle traffic ▪ Construct Welcome Center or interpretive exhibit ▪ Restore and repair Fort Morgan ▪ Advance purchase of areas like Pilot Town will protect areas before development threatens their natural beauty and biological significance

Guidelines/ Policies	Physical Improvements
Segment 4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support the development of the 400-acre Foley eco-park ▪ Promote Downtown Foley and its National Register of Historic Places (NRPH) historic district designation ▪ Promote Downtown Magnolia Springs and its NRHP historic district designation ▪ Support Elberta's heritage museum and partner with Baldwin County commission ▪ Develop Corridor Overlay District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interpretive Center will be in close proximity to a multi-use educational resource ▪ Support development of historic Civil War site and historic exhibits ▪ Enhance resource signage
Segment 5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support recognition of historic places, churches, cemeteries, landing, and bluffs along the Scenic Byway corridor 	