



# TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

## JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **GLO awarded more than \$5 million for coastal habitat recovery**

*Project will restore hundreds of acres of wetland habitat in West Galveston Bay*

**AUSTIN** —The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced today they have awarded the Texas General Land Office a grant of \$5.15 million to restore valuable wildlife habitat along the Texas coast. The grant process was highly competitive, with applicants required to show that their “shovel ready” projects and would bring significant economic and ecological benefits to the area.

“Preserving the rich wildlife of the Texas coast is one of my top priorities,” said Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson. “I am confident this grant will greatly benefit the ecosystem — and the economy — of West Galveston Bay.”

The General Land Office will partner with Texas Parks and Wildlife to restore more than 300 acres of intertidal wetlands in Galveston Island State Park and Jumbile Cove. These wetlands are nursery grounds for over 95 percent of the recreational and commercial fish species found in the Gulf of Mexico, from brown and white shrimp to blue crab and red drum. Numerous birds, including the endangered brown pelican, the reddish egret and the white-faced ibis call this area home, but have been threatened by the loss of wetland and seagrass habitat.

In addition to the \$5.15 million from NOAA, the GLO is contributing more than \$600,000 and the Texas energy company NRG Power LLC is awarding an in-kind plant donation of \$250,000, for a total of more than \$6 million. The projects are expected to open 100 jobs in the area.

The GLO plans to have a final project design by September of this year and begin construction by November. October 2010 is the projected completion date for both Galveston Island State Park and Jumbile Cove.

For more information about the Texas General Land Office, 1-800-998-4GLO or visit our Web site at [www.glo.state.tx.us](http://www.glo.state.tx.us).

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