



COASTAL RESTORATION *at work*



NOAA & THE AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

In February 2009, NOAA received \$167 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to restore coastal habitat and help jump-start the nation's economy by supporting thousands of jobs.

Now, after a rigorous selection process, the agency is funding 50 high quality, high priority coastal restoration projects. These projects will support thousands of jobs—spanning the country from New England's salt marshes, to the shores of the Great Lakes, to the coral reefs of the Pacific Islands.

Our coasts in particular are tremendously important to the nation's economic bottom line; they support more than 28 million jobs and generate half of the nation's Gross Domestic Product. Commercial and recreational fishing alone employ 2 million people and contributes \$185 billion to the nation's economy, and protecting the health of our coasts, also helps to protect these jobs.

During a competitive process to choose projects, NOAA received more than 800 proposals, totaling \$3 billion in requests, clearly demonstrating demand for improving the condition of our nation's coasts and the economy. The proposals were vetted by a rigorous technical review process and were evaluated on: high ecological value, the potential for job creation, and shovel-readiness.

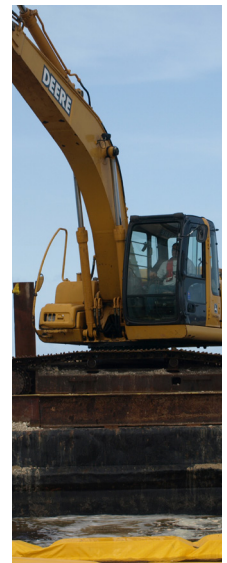
Restoration Creates Jobs

Simply put, restoration creates jobs. NOAA's Recovery Act restoration efforts are spread over 22 states and two territories. They will employ Americans in areas with some of the highest rates of unemployment, such as California, Oregon and Michigan.

Throughout a project, NOAA and its partners work with a wide range of professionals possessing a diverse set of skills, including

“These Recovery Act projects will put Americans to work while restoring our coasts and combating climate change.”

- Secretary of Commerce, Gary Locke



NOAA's Recovery Act coastal restoration projects support a wide variety of job skills and equipment needs, which benefit the local economy.

laborers, restoration design engineers, restoration ecologists, landscape architects, hydrologists and botanists, just to name a few. Restoration also supports the economy indirectly as it enlists the help of many local companies to provide the raw materials and heavy equipment needed to make restoration projects possible.



The Removal of Derelict Fishing Gear in Puget Sound effort hires out-of-work fishermen to pull debris, including this crab pot and fishing gear, from the Sound.



NOAA created a website – www.noaa.gov/recovery – where you can use an interactive Google map to track the progress of each individual habitat restoration project, as well as view real-time video, images and read about their status.

When President Obama signed the Recovery Act into law in February, he called for the funds to be spent in a transparent way. In keeping with this directive, NOAA has set up a dedicated Web site—www.noaa.gov/recovery—where you can track the progress of each of the 50 habitat restoration projects through an interactive “Restoration Atlas” powered by Google. You can view before, during and after images of our restoration work as well as videos documenting “on the job” progress.

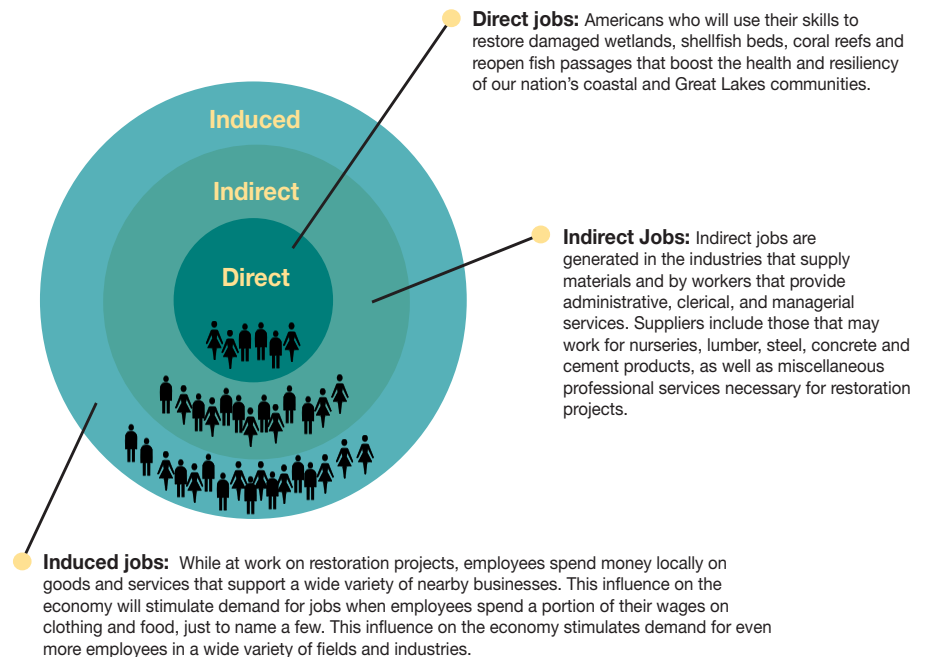


The North Carolina Estuary Habitat Restoration Recovery Act project is using barges, including this one pictured above, to create supplemental employment unemployed watermen to restore more than 49 acres of oyster reefs.

The Status of the Projects Today - April 2010

Since June 2009, more than 30 of the 50 coastal restoration Recovery Act projects have broken ground, with the rest preparing to start and finish throughout the next year and a half. The 50 projects are supporting thousands of short-term and long-term jobs. They support the equivalent of more than 250 full-time jobs as of the lastst report and are expected to support the equivalent of an additional 1,000 full-time jobs before they are completed.

When complete, these projects will have restored more than 8,700 acres of habitat and removed obsolete and unsafe dams that open more than 700 stream miles where fish migrate and spawn. The projects also will remove more than 850 metric tons of debris, rebuild oyster and other shellfish habitat and protect 11,750 acres to reduce threats to coral reefs.



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www.noaa.gov/recovery