

Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Trail Enhancement Project, Alabama

Phase IV Proposed Early Restoration Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Jeff Friend Trail renovation project at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Alabama would address lost recreational use on Department of the Interior lands in the five Gulf states.

After the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, significant amounts of oil reached the sand beaches of Bon Secour NWR. As a result, intense spill response activities, which included the use of heavy equipment and vehicles on the beach, were conducted. Both the spill and the response caused a loss of recreational opportunities and a decrease in the quality of visitors' experiences at this coastal refuge.

The Jeff Friend Trail has been a popular destination with winter visitors and local schoolchildren since it was built 10 years ago. The trail, which was constructed to comply with American Disability Act (ADA) requirements, begins at the parking lot located on Ft. Morgan Road and provides convenient access to mature maritime forest and the shores of Little Lagoon.

The trail has surpassed its serviceable life and is in need of repair. The boardwalk is warped and cracked. The gravel portion of the trail also needs to be repaired; this would improve accessibility.

The proposed project would replace the 1,250 foot wooden portion of the trail with a composite material boardwalk. The 3,700-foot gravel portion of the



A portion of the existing Jeff Friend Trail as it runs parallel to the shores of Little Lagoon. Credit: Ben Frater/USFWS.

trail would be replaced with a compressed pervious material. Finally the two ADA-compliant parking spaces in the parking lot would be enlarged slightly to improve vehicular access.

ESTIMATED COST: \$545,110.

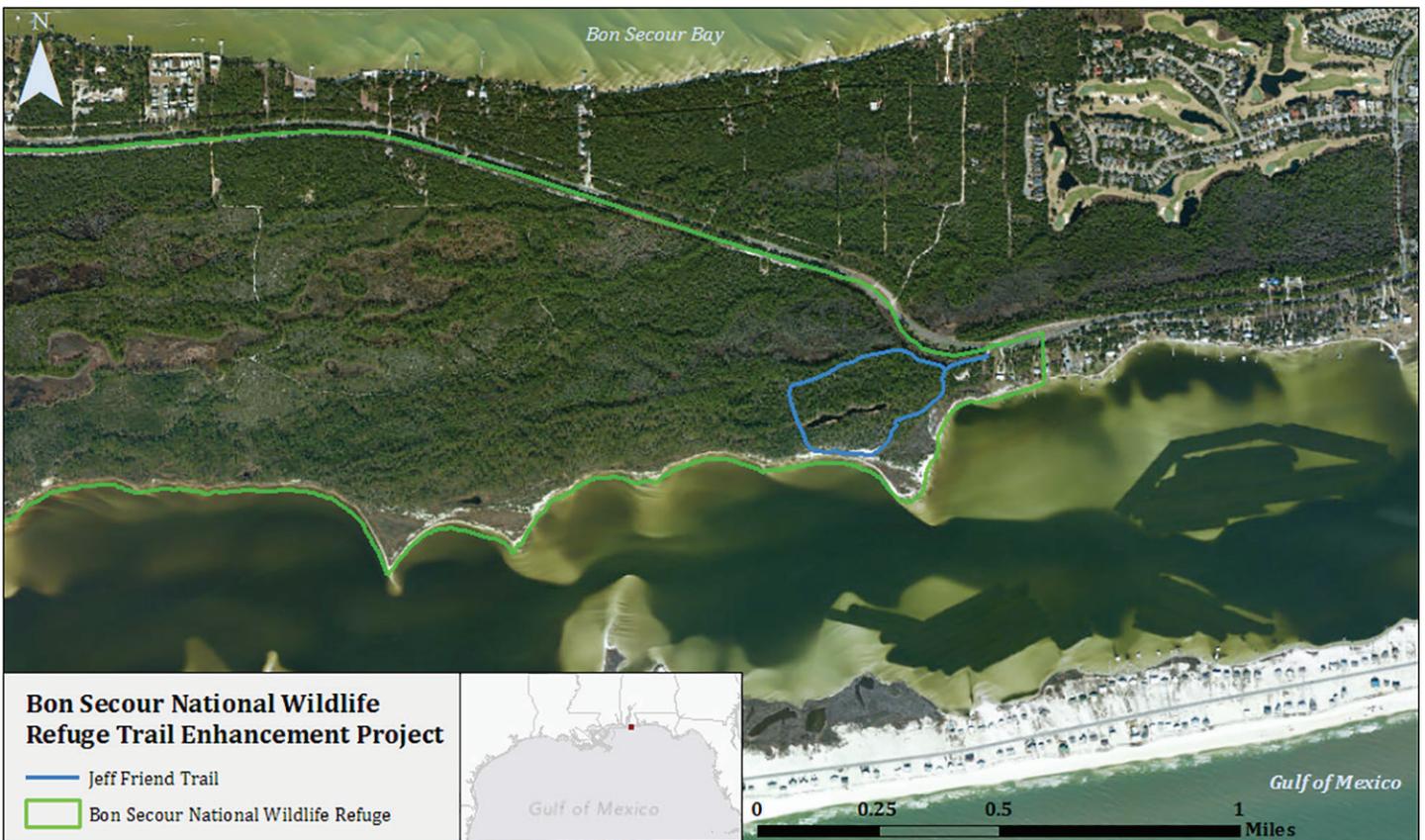
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- Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge
- Jeff Friend Trail

Vicinity map: proposed Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Trail Enhancement Project



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Aerial image of Jeff Friend trail location (blue line) at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge

