

NOTICE

OFFICIAL STATEMENT By the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources regarding the Dauphin Island West End Nature Preserve.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) facilitated the purchase of 838 acres of coastal habitat on the West End of Dauphin Island for the conservation and management of migratory shore birds, including threatened species protected under the Endangered Species Act. The area is also critical habitat for nesting of several species of endangered or threatened sea turtles.

The West End purchase was authorized by the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustees utilizing funds from the legal settlement specifically aimed at the restoration of bird species affected by the DWH event.

The Town of Dauphin Island is the owner of the property, which serves as a sanctuary for birds, turtles, and other coastal wildlife in accordance with the Dauphin Island West End Bird Conservation and Management Plan. The plan was developed by Mobile County and the Town of Dauphin Island in consultation with the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, ADCNR, and other entities, and includes management efforts to reduce predation of nests and hatchlings by other wildlife. The work agreement to facilitate the predator management activities is between DOI and USDA.

Dauphin Island's West End Nature Preserve provides important foraging habitat for Wilson's plover, snowy plover, reddish egret, American oyster catcher, least tern, and other coastal bird species including the piping plover and red knot which are threatened species within their Alabama range. Predator management is a crucial element of shorebird restoration efforts.

For more information about the West End Nature Preserve, visit <https://www.townofdauphinisland.org/west-end-nature-preserve>.