Northern Mississippi Sound and Mon Louis Island

Description

➤ Mississippi Sound runs 90 miles east-west along the Gulf Coast, from Waveland, Mississippi to the Dauphin Island Bridge in Alabama.

➤ The site contains all islands within Mississippi Sound, Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Forever Wild Land Trust’s Grand Bay Savannah Nature Preserve, South Mon Louis Island Salt Marshes and other Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources tracts.

➤ The Alabama portion of the Sound contains the largest, relatively undisturbed tracts of coastal pine savanna and salt marsh in Alabama and along the Gulf Coast.

Protected and Managed Lands

Forever Wild Land Trust Tracts:

• The Grand Bay Savanna Little River Road Addition (113 acres) is located just north of the Grand Bay Savanna Addition Tract.

• Portersville Bay Wetlands Tract (440 acres) is located near Portersville Bay.

• The Grand Bay Savanna Addition Tract (662 acres) is located adjacent to Grand Bay, Pointe Aux Pines Peninsula and Portersville Bay.

• The Grand Bay Savanna-Giddens Tract Addition (1,642 acres) is located north of the Grand Bay Savanna Little River Road Addition.

• The Grand Bay Savanna Tract (2,733 acres) is located adjacent to Grand Bay, Pointe Aux Pines Peninsula and Portersville Bay.

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Tracts:

• Grand Bay-Brantley Mitigation Bank (65 acres) is located just north of Little Bay and south of Hwy. 188.

• Dennis Cove (222 acres) is located along West Fowl River. It was originally managed by The Nature Conservancy, but is now owned by the state and managed as a conservation area.

• Additional ADCNR holdings (239 acres) are located to the west of the Forever Wild Land Trust Grand Bay Savanna Tract.

Alabama Port Mitigation Bank (867 acres) is located on the south eastern corner of Mon Louis Island.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge (5,409 acres) overlaps the Alabama - Mississippi border.
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Location
Alabama, Mobile County

Relative Size
The GEM site is approximately 92,482 acres.

Northern Mississippi Sound and Mon Louis Island Facts:
• Habitats include: Freshwater and coastal wetlands, wet pine savanna, maritime forests, oyster reefs, riparian buffers, submerged seagrass beds, salt marshes and intertidal flats, pine flatwoods, swamps, bays and bayous.
• Mississippi Sound contains Alabama’s most extensive black needlerush marshes.
• Northern Mississippi Sound, especially Cat Island, contains important habitat for migratory shore, wading birds and neotropical bird species. The island supports the largest congregation of nesting wading birds and is historically the only nesting site for Reddish Egrets along the Alabama coast.
• The area is historically known as the French Coast of Alabama. Coq d’Inde was the first recorded European settlement in the region, located at modern day Coden, Alabama. It was settled by the Frenchman Guillaume Huet in 1726.