Orange Beach Maritime Forest and Gulf State Park

**Description**

➤ The Orange Beach Maritime Forest and Gulf State Park GEM site stretches over 6,700 acres of land, predominately covered by maritime forest habitat.

➤ The site includes over 600 acres of forest that borders the Gulf State Park to the north, a large pitcher plant bog, cypress swamps, wetlands and 2.5 miles of white sand beaches on four preserved stretches.

➤ Gulf State Park was designated in 1939 and is Alabama’s southernmost state park.

**Protected and Managed Lands**

- **Orange Beach Maritime Forest (591 acres)** is located on the western side of Gulf State Park.
- **Gulf State Park (6,150 acres)** is located in Orange Beach and Gulf Shores, Alabama.
Orange Beach Maritime Forest and Gulf State Park Facts:

- Habitats include: Maritime live oak forests, wet longleaf pine savannas, coastal freshwater wetlands, intertidal marshes and flats, beaches and dunes, cypress swamps, a large pitcher plant bog and 900 acres of freshwater lakes.

- The beaches of Gulf State Park provide critical habitat for the threatened loggerhead sea turtles that come ashore to nest from May to October.

- Orange Beach contains Alabama’s last remaining “intact” maritime forest.

- The Orange Beach Maritime Forest wetlands function as flood control for the adjacent low lying coastal community and as habitat for migratory bird and butterfly species.

- The Gulf Coast was a popular area for fishing and gathering food during prehistoric times. Potshards and oyster shells have been found throughout the Orange Beach Maritime Forest, suggesting the presence of Native Americans in the area at one time.

Location
Alabama, Baldwin County

Relative Size
The GEM site is approximately 6,741 acres.