

Alabama Gulf Ecological Management Site (GEMS)

The GEMS Program was established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Gulf of Mexico Program and five gulf states to advance conservation efforts of coastal areas that represent unique habitats for fish, wildlife and other natural resources of particular significance.

Lower Perdido Bay

Description

- Perdido Bay is a relatively shallow estuary, covering 28 square miles and encompassing the lower portion of the Alabama-Florida border.
- The Bay is roughly 17 miles long, two to four miles wide and averages seven feet in depth.
- Lower Perdido Bay is composed of the Bay water bottom, coastline and the Perdido Islands, including Robinson, Walker, Bird, Gilchrist and Rabbit islands. These small, low-profile islands are just inside Perdido Pass.

Protected and Managed Lands

City of Orange Beach: Robinson Island (13 acres) is located just offshore of Boggy Point.

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources: Bird Island (14 acres) is located just south of Robinson Island and just north of the Perdido Pass Bridge.

The Nature Conservancy of Alabama: Rabbit Island Preserve (16 acres) is located near the east end of Ono Island in Old River.

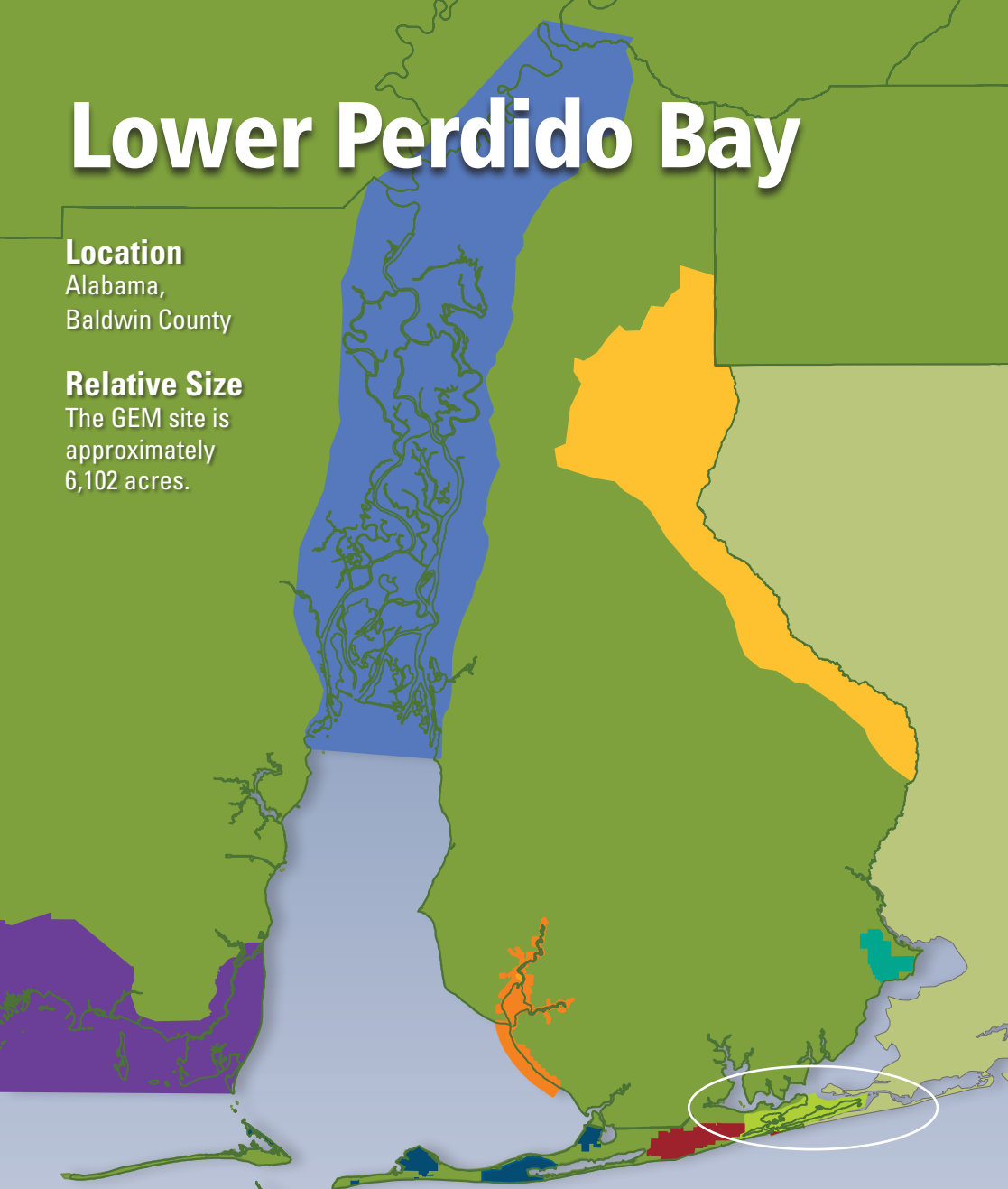
Lower Perdido Bay

Location

Alabama,
Baldwin County

Relative Size

The GEM site is
approximately
6,102 acres.



- Bon Secour NWR
- Lillian Swamp
- Lower Perdido Bay
- North Mississippi Sound
- Mobile Tensaw
- OB Maritime Forest-GSP
- Perdido River Corridor
- Weeks Bay NERR

Orange Beach Parks & Recreation



Coastal Beaches and Dunes



West Indian Manatee

© Don Getty



Painted Bunting

Lower Perdido Bay Facts:

- Habitats include: Coastal beaches and dunes, freshwater wetlands, pine savanna, maritime forests, tidal marshes and flats, shallow marine waters and submerged seagrass beds.
- Lower Perdido Bay is one of the few locations in Alabama where substantial seagrass beds, one of Alabama's most biologically productive aquatic ecosystems, are found.
- The federally endangered Perdido Key beach mouse; West Indian manatee and the federally threatened Gulf sturgeon, green and loggerhead sea turtles are dependent on habitat in this area.
- Migratory birds use the Perdido Islands as stopover and staging areas, either as first landfall on the northern migration across the Gulf or as a last stop before the southern migration.
- Perdido is a Spanish name that means "lost". This name was given by the Spaniards who once occupied the area and relates to the hidden nature of Perdido Bay.

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