

# GINS Beach Enhancement



## NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT (NRDA) - PHASE III

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves removing fragments of asphalt and road-base materials that have been scattered over approximately 1,200 acres of the Fort Pickens, Santa Rosa, and Perdido Key areas of the Florida District of Gulf Islands National Seashore (GINS), a park unit within the National Park Service. These materials originated from roads damaged during several storms and hurricanes and range in shape and size from large slabs to pieces that measure as little as a quarter of an inch in diameter. Removal methods will involve primarily mechanized equipment, supplemented by crews using hand tools. The majority of materials are expected to be less than six inches deep, although materials several feet deep also may be removed. Protection measures have been included in project design and timing to protect shorebirds, sea turtles and beach mice as well as sensitive areas like heavily vegetated areas, dunes, wetlands, and historical and tribal resources. Vegetation coincidentally removed during mechanized cleanup activities will be re-planted with like numbers and like species. Cleanup activities will occur during a 6.5-month work season with a 5.5-month closure for shorebird and sea turtle nesting seasons from March 1 through August 15 of each year. The

project is expected to take up to approximately five years.

Source: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/beach-enhancement-project-gulf-islands-national-seashore>.

Mark VanMouwerik, National Park Service  
Restoration Project Manager

### PROJECT DETAILS

Total Funding Allocated: \$10,836,055

Status: Implementation

- GINS hired Project Manager July 2015.
- Contractors hired: Ohopaki General Contracting & Mechanical, Inc (Prime Contractor) – Project Management, Hand cleaning, Disposal/Recycling, Hodges Group / Sandman, LLC (Subcontractors) – Mechanical Sand Sifting.
- Phase 1 (small, two-acre project) Opal Beach Derelict Parking Lot and Road Removal – Completed Winter 2016.
- Phase 2 (Ft. Pickens Site) began October 2016.



Contractors clean the sand using mechanized sieve, maneuvering around sensitive vegetation.



Project managers plan how to dispose of debris while biologists monitor debris product.



Before and after shots of the asphalt removal.





**Gulf Islands National Seashore Florida Unit  
Beach Enhancement and Asphalt Removal Project**

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



**Project Area Map**



\*Map courtesy of National Park Service, US Department of Interior