#### Shorebird Habitat Creation and Enhancement Opportunities along Florida's Nature Coast

It is an interest of the second

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# Why the Nature Coast?

Information from Monitoring and Research

Vitale, N., Brush, J. & Powell, A. Loss of Coastal Islands Along Florida's Big Bend Region: Implications for Breeding American Oystercatchers. *Estuaries and Coasts* (2020). <u>https://doi.org/10.1007/s12237-020-00811-3</u>



## Roost Enhancement: Cedar Key









## Lone Cabbage Reef Restoration

### Gomez Key Habitat Enhancement for American Oystercatchers

Goal: Restore and conserve bird nesting and foraging habitat



#### Gomez Key Habitat Enhancement for American Oystercatchers - monitoring

Objectives	Monitoring parameters
Provide nesting habitat for birds	<ul> <li>Area</li> <li>Elevation</li> <li>Bird abundance and/or density</li> </ul>
Provide food resources for birds	<ul> <li>Bird abundance and/or density</li> <li>Oyster density</li> </ul>

### Gomez Key Habitat Enhancement for American Oystercatchers - monitoring

- Partnering with UF to use UAS LiDAR
- On ground habitat sampling
- Bird surveys



LiDAR of Gomez Key taken in 2019



Gomez Key Habitat Enhancement for American Oystercatchers- Design

- Construction scalable
  - Could take one to two years
    - Work will take place outside of nesting season (Sep-Feb)
  - Using natural locally available limestone rock and shell cultch
  - Contracted work (barge and heavy machinery)

#### Gomez Key Habitat Enhancement for American Oystercatchers- Blueprints for the future

- Project Sustainability
- Community resilience
- Informing future projects



## Thank you

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