

US Department of the Interior

Abandoned Oil and Gas Well Plugging and Site Reclamation

Nineteen (19) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Park Service (NPS) areas in Louisiana and Texas have abandoned oil and gas wells and associated features because in most cases: (1) the abandoned features predated the establishment or expansion of FWS and NPS areas; or (2) operators conducting oil and gas operations in FWS and NPS areas abandoned the operations, and FWS and NPS have exhausted regulatory avenues for operators to take necessary corrective actions and the operations have been determined to be abandoned. Abandoned oil and gas features pose risks to human safety, environmental risks to surface and subsurface resources, and continued habitat loss. Thirty-nine (39) of the 52 projects in this proposal are ready to implement. Compliance would be completed within 1 day to 6 months before implementing the remaining 13 projects. The FWS and NPS propose to enter cooperative agreements with the State Oil and Gas Divisions to implement the majority of projects, particularly for plugging/re-plugging 32 wells and removing surface equipment/debris at 61 sites, before completing site reclamation to restore habitat at the sites. Timeline to complete projects would range from 1 to 3 years, with one project (reclamation of vehicle tracks in wind tidal flats on 3,038 acres in Padre Island National Seashore (TX)) taking up to 6 years to complete. Requested funding amount: \$34,399,245.