



FUNDED PRIORITIES LIST 3B

Chenier Plain Ecosystem Restoration Program

Funded Priorities List (FPL) 3b is part of a two-phase approach used by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) to respond to ecosystem needs and take advantage of important partnership opportunities to advance large-scale ecosystem restoration.

The Council has approved \$1.7M in planning funds as FPL Category 1 for the *Chenier Plain Ecosystem Restoration Program*. In addition, the Council has included an implementation component for potential future funding as an FPL Category 2 activity, and has reserved \$18.3M for this component, pending further review and a Council vote. The *Chenier Plain Ecosystem Restoration Program* will utilize the Planning Framework techniques and approaches outlined in the figure below to address environmental stressors in the Chenier Plain. Texas, through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, is the sponsor of this program.

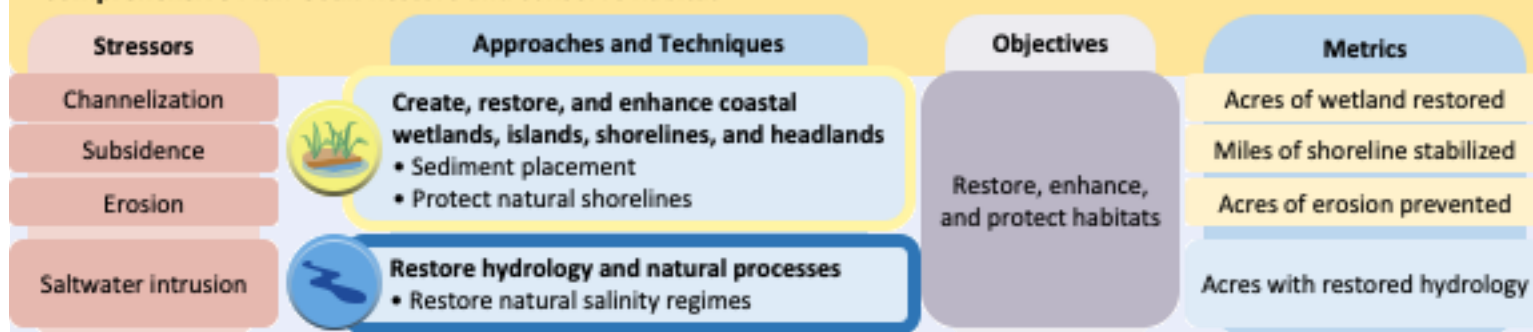
The program aims to restore and conserve high-quality coastal habitats within the Chenier Plain complex of Texas through a variety of methods including (1) beneficial use of dredge material, (2) the construction of breakwaters to protect shoreline, and (3) the restoration of hydrology and wetlands. Targeted habitats will include freshwater to estuarine marsh, coastal prairie grasslands, tidal flats, creeks and basins, all of which creates an extremely productive complex for fish and wildlife resources and protects inland areas from storm surge.

Potential partners for the program may include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Ducks Unlimited, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and local and regional governments. The program will utilize specified criteria for selecting projects that were identified earlier through public meetings and as part of a stakeholder process. Implementation of the project has the potential to restore degraded wetlands, reduce erosion, improve water quality, create habitat, provide land reclamation, and increase coastal resiliency in an effective and efficient manner.

Program at a Glance

The *Chenier Plain Ecosystem Restoration Program* applies Planning Framework approaches and techniques to support Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. In support of the primary objective to *Restore, enhance, and protect habitats*, stressors such as channelization, subsidence, and erosion will be addressed using the *Sediment placement* technique and the *Protect natural shorelines* technique, while saltwater intrusion will be addressed using the *Restore natural salinity regimes* technique. Success using sediment placement and natural shoreline protection to *Restore, enhance, and protect habitats* may be tracked using the acres of wetland restored, miles of shoreline stabilized and acres of erosion prevented as metrics, while success using restoration of natural salinity regimes may be tracked using acres with restored hydrology.

Comprehensive Plan Goal: Restore and conserve habitat



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