

I. Applicant and Proposal Information Summary Sheet

Council Member: State of Alabama		Point of Contact: Hank Burch
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Project Identification		
Project Title: Coastal Alabama Comprehensive Watershed Restoration Planning Project		
State(s): AL	County/City/Region: Mobile/Baldwin Counties	
General Location: <i>Projects <u>must</u> be located within the Gulf Coast Region as defined in RESTORE Act. (attach map or photos, if applicable)</i>		
Coastal and Intertidal 12-digit HUC Watersheds in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama		
Project Description		
RESTORE Goals: <i>Identify all RESTORE Act goals this project supports. Place a P for Primary Goal, and S for secondary goals.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Restore and Conserve Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources	
<input type="checkbox"/> Restore Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Enhance Community Resilience	
<input type="checkbox"/> Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy		
RESTORE Objectives: <i>Identify all RESTORE Act objectives this project supports. Place a P for Primary Objective, and S for secondary objectives.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Restore, Enhance, and Protect Habitats	<input type="checkbox"/> Promote Community Resilience	
<input type="checkbox"/> Restore, Improve, and Protect Water Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Promote Natural Resource Stewardship and Environmental Education	
<input type="checkbox"/> Protect and Restore Living Coastal and Marine Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve Science-Based Decision-Making Processes	
<input type="checkbox"/> Restore and Enhance Natural Processes and Shorelines		
RESTORE Priorities: <i>Identify all RESTORE Act priorities that this project supports.</i>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority 1: Projects that are projected to make the greatest contribution ...		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority 2: Large-scale projects and programs that are projected to substantially contribute to restoring...		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority 3: Projects contained in existing Gulf Coast State comprehensive plans for the restoration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority 4: Projects that restore long-term resiliency of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries ...		
RESTORE Commitments: <i>Identify all RESTORE Comprehensive Plan commitments that this project supports.</i>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commitment to Science-based Decision Making		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commitment to Regional Ecosystem-based Approach to Restoration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commitment to Engagement, Inclusion, and Transparency		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commitment to Leverage Resources and Partnerships		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commitment to Delivering Results and Measuring Impacts		
RESTORE Proposal Type and Phases: <i>Please identify which type and phase best suits this proposal.</i>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical Assistance
<input type="checkbox"/> Program		<input type="checkbox"/> Implementation
Project Cost and Duration		
Project Cost Estimate:		Project Timing Estimate:
Total : \$4,342,500.00		Date Anticipated to Start: <u>Upon Award</u>
		Time to Completion: <u>5</u> years
		Anticipated Project Lifespan: <u>10-15</u> years

II. Executive Summary

With the publication of its updated Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) in 2013, the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) adopted a protocol of watershed management planning at the 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) scale to guide science-based project implementation in Alabama's coastal watersheds.

Utilizing significant community and stakeholder input, the MBNEP's 20-member Science Advisory Committee and 30-member Project Implementation Committee systematically targeted and prioritized the order in which 31 coastal and intertidal watersheds were identified for the development of standardized comprehensive watershed management plans. To date, funding has been secured and watershed management plan development is underway or has been completed in 5 priority watersheds in the MBNEP Program Area. Implementation of specific habitat and water quality projects is also underway in some of these watersheds. The watershed management planning process, tied with the stakeholder-driven NEP framework, is proving to be a strong foundation to support targeted, efficient ecosystem restoration.

The forerunner program that shows the true potential for success of the MBNEP's watershed based planning and restoration effort is the D'Olive Creek watershed in Baldwin County, Alabama. Anchored by the Cities of Daphne and Spanish Fort, the D'Olive Creek watershed is one of the fastest growing areas of Alabama (Cook et al., 2014). Over the last 2 decades, the area has faced serious growth issues, including stormwater runoff, gully erosion, loss of stream habitat and biological function, and extensive sedimentation where it drains into Mobile Bay. The Mobile Bay NEP spearheaded a watershed management plan for the area in 2010 (Coffee & Baya, 2010), which has successfully outlined a strategy for restoring degraded streams in the watershed. The planning effort has leveraged funding for detailed research, baseline mapping and assessment, restoration projects (including stream restoration and stormwater management projects), and pre and post implementation monitoring efforts.

In 2013, the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF), administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), awarded \$6.7 million in funds to implement portions of the already completed D'Olive Bay Watershed Management Plan in Baldwin County, Alabama. Specifically, the NFWF implementation funds target stream restoration, stormwater management, and re-establishment of historical beds of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in the watershed. NFWF also awarded \$2.05 million in funds to complete the watershed management planning process for the Fowl River watershed while concurrently restoring 14 acres of wetlands within the watershed. In 2014, NFWF announced its intent to award additional GEBF funds to effect the completion of 7 additional watershed management plans in coastal Alabama. These funds are also supporting the comprehensive updating of aerial imagery and subsequent mapping of habitat types for all of coastal Alabama, which will be used to update status and trends information and support the development of a habitat restoration strategy based on watershed management plan recommendations.

It is expected that certain efficiencies can be achieved by completing all of the watershed plans in a similar timeframe. For example, collection and assessment of existing data, such as land use/land cover mapping or existing water quality information can be collected for the entire planning area rather than piecemeal by watershed. Because of such opportunities for efficiency, it is anticipated that these watershed plans can be completed within 5 years from the point of award. MBNEP staff and committee structures are in place to monitor plan development and ensure quality and consistency of each effort.

There are few uncertainties or risks associated with watershed management planning. In fact, these planning efforts are undertaken on the front end for the purpose of reducing risks and uncertainties associated with project implementation. The approach has proven effective and the MBNEP has demonstrated success developing and implementing this type of effort. The direct interaction of the MBNEP's Science Advisory and Project Implementation Committees ensures that best available science fundamentally drives watershed plan development.

The Council-Selected Restoration Component of funding through the RESTORE Act provides a unique opportunity to complete the watershed planning component of the remaining 19 priority watersheds in Coastal Alabama. This effort is foundational, uses best available science, is already showing implementation success, and would demonstrate coordinated effort of Deepwater Horizon restoration funding sources.

III. Proposal Narrative

Introduction and Background

Alabama's estuaries are considered environmentally and economically important because of their exceptional biological diversity and productivity. These estuaries, where the fresh water from several rivers meets the salt water of the Gulf of Mexico, support both fresh and saltwater species; serve as nursery habitat for many commercially- and recreationally-important fish and shellfish; and provide habitats that are essential to the annual cycles of many species of breeding, wintering, and migrating waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds and songbirds. Gulf-wide, these productive estuaries were impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The Mobile Bay watershed covers two-thirds of the state of Alabama and portions of Mississippi, Georgia, and Tennessee. It is the fourth largest watershed in the United States in terms of flow volume, and the sixth largest in terms of area. Major tributaries to the Bay include the Tombigbee, Tensaw, Apalachee, Blakeley, Mobile, Alabama, Dog, Fowl, Fly, Fish, Magnolia, and Bon Secour rivers and Chickasaw, Norton, Three Mile and Eight Mile creeks. Other major tributaries along the Alabama coast include West Fowl River, Sandy Creek, Mifflin Creek, Graham Creek, and Hammock Creek.

According to NatureServe (2002), Alabama boasts the fifth highest diversity of vascular plants and vertebrate animals among the fifty states and the highest diversity of any state east of the Mississippi River. However, Alabama ranks second, following only Hawaii, in the number of species that are presumed or possibly extinct and fourth in the percentage of a state's plants and animals that are at risk of extinction due to rarity or other factors.

In order to best determine water quality and habitat restoration and conservation priorities in coastal Alabama, the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, through its 20 member Science Advisory and 30 member Project Implementation Committees, proposes to continue implementation of its Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) through development of comprehensive watershed management plans for priority watersheds in coastal Alabama.

This project will lay a foundation for restoring and improving management of the watersheds flowing into the bays, sound, and Gulf along Alabama's coast.

Implementation methodology

After three years of compiling input from over 1,000 citizens and 30 different scientists, MBNEP published a five-year Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for 2013-2018 addressing community values and capturing consensus among stakeholders about the estuary's most critical management needs. The plan is based on protecting the six things about coastal quality of life that citizens value most: Access (to water and open spaces), Beaches and Shorelines, Fish, Heritage/Culture, Resiliency, and Water Quality.

Steps taken in the development of this CCMP included an assessment of levels of stress on coastal habitats that provide ecosystem services critical to our quality of life. In June, 2011 over 30 scientists and ecologists evaluated the impact of each of a series of 13 human-related habitat stressors on provision of 14 different ecosystem services by ten coastal habitats. Each stressor was rated between zero (absolutely no negative impact) to three (the most negative and direct impact) for each service for each habitat. The three most stressed coastal habitats were determined to be freshwater wetlands, intertidal marshes and flats, and rivers and streams (with their riparian buffers). Using this information, MBNEP's Science Advisory Committee (SAC) developed its five-year strategy for inclusion in the CCMP.

The Mobile Bay watershed comprises many subwatersheds classified numerically by the USGS into Hydrologic Unit Codes, or HUCs. For planning purposes, the MBNEP prefers a scale of 12-digit HUCs, the smallest geographical area classified in the USGS schema. There are 98 12-digit HUCs in Alabama's two coastal counties draining into receiving waters like Fowl River (HUC031602050205), Magnolia River (HUC031602050308), and 96 others. Towards developing a five-year ecosystem restoration strategy, MBNEP's Project Implementation Committee (PIC) adopted a protocol of watershed management planning at the 12-digit HUC level to guide science-based project implementation.

To prioritize coastal watersheds for future planning and project implementation, the PIC identified 23 12-digit HUCs in Baldwin and Mobile counties containing at least two of the three habitats determined by the SAC to be most impacted or previously identified as priority areas due to the presence of intertidal marshes and flats. These watersheds were evaluated using the following information sets:

- Priority Restoration Watersheds*
- Priority Areas for Acquisition*
- Priority Intertidal Marshes and Flats*
- Outstanding Alabama Waters*
- TMDL'ed Waters Permitted*
- Toxic Release Inventory Sites*
- ADEM Surveys*
- Watershed Management Plans (Current)*
- ADEM Long-Term Monitoring Stations*
- Priority Freshwater Wetlands*
- Priority Conservation Watersheds*
- Protected Lands*
- Impaired Waters*
- Point Source Discharges (NPDES)*
- % Urbanization*
- Watershed Management Plans (Old)*
- GSA Sediment Studies Completed*

The PIC inventoried "resources" and "needs" of each of the ranked watersheds and used the results to formulate a CCMP 2013-2018 five-year strategy for ecosystem restoration based on the following protocol: 1) a sediment loading analysis as a precursor to watershed management planning, 2) a comprehensive watershed management plan as a precursor to project implementation, and 3) implementation of management measures recommended in the plans that conform to the EPA's nine key elements of effective watershed planning (EPA 2008).

The Coastal Alabama Comprehensive Watershed Restoration Planning project is focused on improving the quality of the water entering Mobile Bay, as well as the Gulf of Mexico, and increasing the amount of nursery habitat necessary for sustaining a healthy fishery. Improving water quality and maintaining healthy populations of fish and shellfish are at the base of ensuring what is most important to people living along the Gulf coast: access to Gulf waters; abundant fish

and shellfish; protection of heritage; environmental health and resilience; and water that is fishable, drinkable, and swimmable.

The goals of Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning are to:

- Improve water quality to support healthy populations of fish and shellfish.
- Improve habitats necessary to support healthy populations of fish and shellfish.
- Protect continued customary uses of biological resources to preserve culture, heritage and traditional ecological knowledge of the watershed.
- Improve watershed resiliency to sea level rise and impacts of a changing climate.
- Expand opportunities for community access to the open spaces and waters of the watershed as a mechanism for promoting long-term stewardship and protection.

The objectives of this task conform to the U.S. EPA's nine key elements of watershed planning (Environmental Protection Agency (2008), including:

- Build partnerships through identification of key stakeholders and solicitation of community input and concerns.
- Characterize the watershed through creation of a natural and cultural resource inventories, identification of causes and sources of impairments, identification of data gaps, and estimation of pollutant loads (Element 1).
- Set goals and identify solutions, including determination of pollutant load reductions needed and management measures necessary, to achieve goals (Elements 2-3).
- Design implementation program including implementation schedule, interim milestones, criteria to measure progress, monitoring component, information/education program, and identification of technical and financial assistance needed to implement plan (Elements 4-9).

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program and PIC expectations of how the watershed planning process will be undertaken include:

- Planning activities that are conducted at an appropriate scale.
- Planning that is focused on long-term management processes and measures.
- Adequate and consistent involvement by stakeholders, including government agencies, elected officials, city planners and engineers, local businesses, and local property owners.
- Adequate assessment and presentation of land use/management issues, including any that may be controversial in nature.
- Identification of specific restoration and conservation projects that have the highest chance of sustainability.
- Identification of management measures, including regulatory changes and community capacity building, to sustain restoration efforts.
- Identification of potential sources of funding to fund project implementation, including stormwater management and other infrastructure projects to address water quality.

Watershed planning is well underway in Coastal Alabama. Since assessment of the first 23 priority watersheds, the remaining 8 intertidal watersheds have been added to the list for assessment and prioritization by the MBNEP Science and Project Implementation Committees. To date, three plans have been completed by the MBNEP and are beginning to implement restoration projects. The Big Creek Watershed Management plan has been completed by the Mobile Area Water and Sewer

System. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has funded planning and implementation in the Fowl River Watershed and recently announced the award of Gulf Environmental Benefit Funds for completion of 7 additional watersheds. Alabama seeks RESTORE Council funding to complete the remaining 19 priority watersheds. The status of each is listed in the table below:

	Watershed	County	Status
1	Big Creek Lake	Mobile	Published 2008; Implementation underway
2	Tensaw-Apalachee (D'Olive)	Baldwin	Published 2010; Implementation Underway
3	Eight Mile Creek	Mobile	Published in 2011; Implementation underway
4	Three Mile Creek	Mobile	Published 2014; Implementation underway
5	Fowl River	Mobile	Funded by NFWF 2013; Under development
6	Fish River	Baldwin	NFWF 2014 Award
7	Grand Bay Basin	Mobile	NFWF 2014 Award
8	Bon Secour	Baldwin	NFWF 2014 Award
9	West Fowl R. Delchamps Bayou	Mobile	NFWF 2014 Award
10	Dog River	Mobile	NFWF 2014 Award
11	Wolf Bay	Baldwin	NFWF 2014 Award
12	Bayou la Batre River	Mobile	NFWF 2014 Award
13	Deer River	Mobile	RESTORE Funds Requested
14	Grand Bay/Bayou Heron	Mobile	RESTORE Funds Requested
15	Oyster Bay	Baldwin	RESTORE Funds Requested
16	Dauphin Island	Mobile	RESTORE Funds Requested
17	Little Lagoon	Baldwin	RESTORE Funds Requested
18	Upper Blackwater	Baldwin	RESTORE Funds Requested
19	Rains Creek	Baldwin	RESTORE Funds Requested
20	Halls Creek	Mobile	RESTORE Funds Requested
21	Skunk Bayou	Baldwin	RESTORE Funds Requested
22	Negro Creek	Baldwin	RESTORE Funds Requested
23	Cedar Creek	Mobile	RESTORE Funds Requested
24	Bayou Sara	Mobile	RESTORE Funds Requested
25	Lower Chasaw Creek	Mobile	RESTORE Funds Requested
26	Garrows Bend	Mobile	RESTORE Funds Requested
27	Bay Minette Creek	Baldwin	RESTORE Funds Requested
28	Fly Creek	Baldwin	RESTORE Funds Requested
29	Magnolia River	Baldwin	RESTORE Funds Requested
30	Bridge Creek – Perdido Bay	Baldwin	RESTORE Funds Requested
31	Palmetto Creek	Baldwin	RESTORE Funds Requested

All watershed management plans will be produced in a standard format and will include a detailed watershed description including hydrology, soils, demographics, land uses and cover, and political institutions; watershed conditions including flow, sediment transport, stream assessment, biological data and condition, and stakeholder input; identification of critical areas impacted by erosion and flooding and including degraded streams and wetlands; management measures; cost estimates; implementation strategies; financing alternatives; community outreach; and monitoring. Two completed plans are available for review, demonstrating engagement with municipal planners and engineers and identification of potential sources of funding for implementation of projects. Links to comprehensive management plans for D'Olive Creek and Three Mile Creek watersheds are, respectively <http://www.mobilebaynep.com/images/uploads/library/DOLive-Final-Report-Full.pdf> and http://www.mobilebaynep.com/images/uploads/library/TMCWMP_Final_20140905_Web.pdf.

Monitoring and adaptive management of the project or program

Watershed planning as a precursor to restoration activities is not new in coastal Alabama. However, as environmental stressors have become more acute, a need for more comprehensive, science-based, implementable planning has developed. In 2010, a comprehensive watershed management plan was produced for the D'Olive watershed. This plan included a detailed watershed description including hydrology, soils, demographics, land uses and cover, and political institutions; watershed conditions including flow, sediment transport, stream assessment, biological data and condition, and stakeholder input; identification of critical areas impacted by erosion and flooding and including degraded streams and wetlands; management measures; cost estimates; implementation strategies; financing alternatives; community outreach; and monitoring. This document set a new regional standard for watershed planning and became a critical component to securing millions of dollars for restoration.

Using a similar methodology, MBNEP has just released a comprehensive management plan for the Three Mile Creek watershed, located in Mobile County. Not only does this plan address impairments to water quality and living resources, it also provides recommendations related to the development of passive trails and recreation as a measure for building long-term stewardship of future restoration efforts. This document is already being used to develop grant applications and solicit private sector investment for implementation of the recommendations in this plan. Although there have been other plans produced in the past, the D'Olive and Three Mile Creek watershed management plans provide a superior level of investigation, mapping, and project identification and, as a result, the PIC has adopted an approach of preparing these comprehensive plans as a precursor to restoration and conservation activities. Implementation of these plans goes beyond restoration and conservation. The recommendations are three-pronged and address regulatory improvements, restoration, and community capacity building. To ensure buy-in from local governments, once released, the first action taken is to have the plans officially adopted by the involved governmental entities through legal resolution.

Measures of success for the proposed project or program

Long-term measureable outcomes include the development of 19 comprehensive locally driven watershed plans that build community partnerships; characterization of current conditions in each watershed; identification of goals and solutions for reducing pollutants entering the bay, sound, and Gulf waters; and establishment of implementation programs that include implementation schedule,

interim milestones, criteria to measure progress, monitoring component, information/education programs, and identification of technical and financial assistance needed to implement the plans.

Risks and uncertainties of the proposed activities

There are no major uncertainties related to this project. Contrarily, across coastal Alabama there is quite a bit of excitement about the process recommended by the PIC for watershed planning and restoration and the opportunity to jumpstart implementation of the CCMP objective through this project. There are no major project risks anticipated, and an outcome of this completed project will be future risk reduction.

Outreach and education opportunities

Intended conservation outcomes will be sustained through the community engagement process, including partnerships to be developed with local government officials and their engineering, parks and recreation, public works, and community development staff. Watershed management planning is a collaborative process that actively engages stakeholders within each watershed to work together to identify sustainable actions to improve their communities and their environment. The planning process in and of itself provides community education through a series of status meetings held throughout the process.

Leveraging of resources and partnerships

The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program's Coastal Alabama Watershed Planning efforts have proven to be driven by a wide range of stakeholders, which leverages resources from local business, local, state, and federal government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and citizen stakeholders. This effort has already drawn the support of the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, which is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for purposes of implementing restoration programs following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. NFWF has already authorized funding for the development of 8 watershed restoration plans and has provided additional funds to implement measures in completed plans. If the RESTORE Council chooses to fund the planning effort in the 19 remaining priority watersheds, it would represent a unique partnering of two major Deepwater Horizon restoration efforts.

Proposal project/program benefits

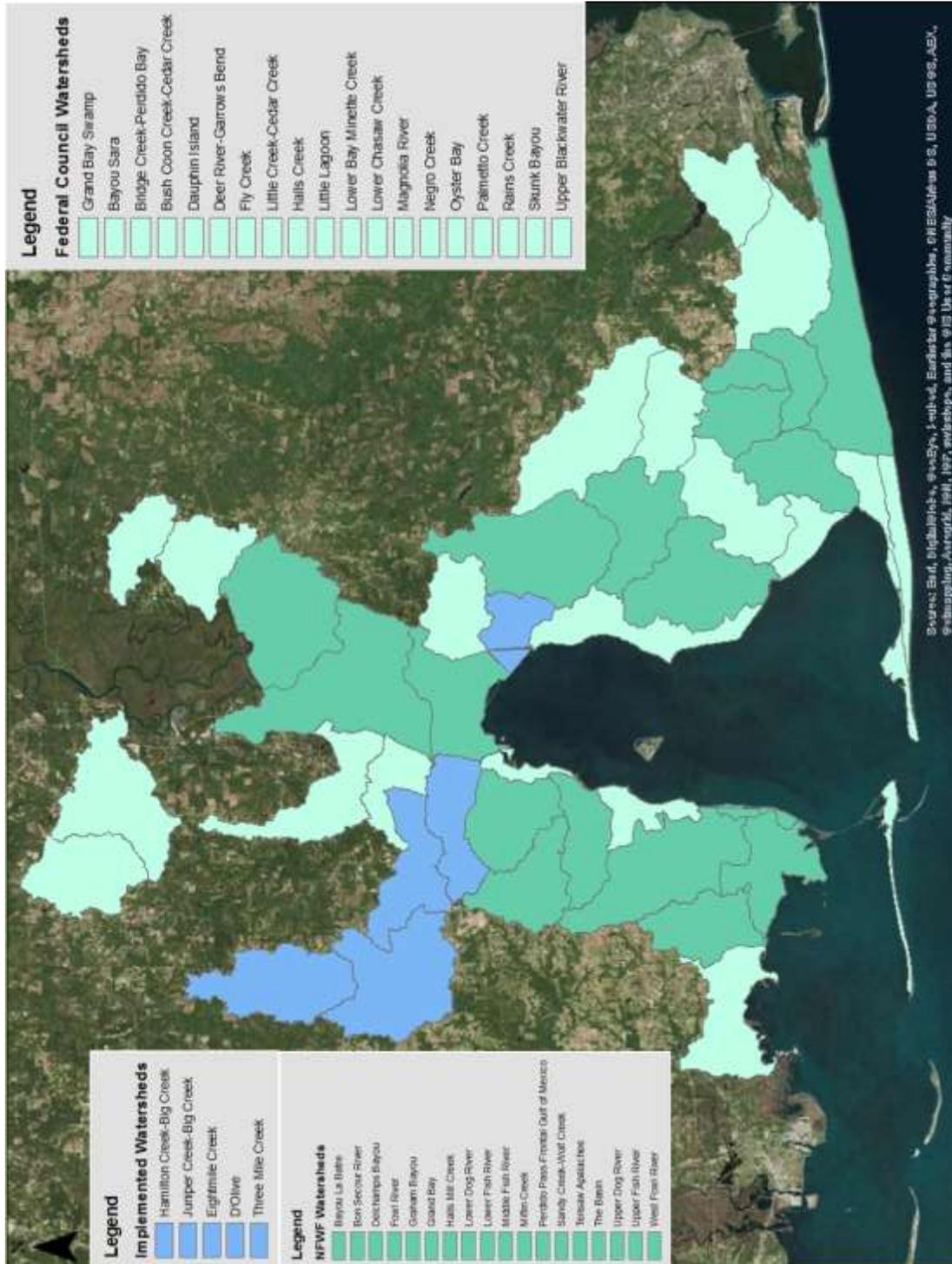
The Coastal Alabama Watershed Restoration Planning Program described herein fully supports the commitments made by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council in its 2013 Comprehensive Plan. The makeup of the Mobile Bay NEP Science Advisory and Project Implementation Committees assures that the watershed management planning process is committed to *science-based decision making*. The planning effort applies a *regionally developed framework* to localized watersheds. In fact, these watershed plans are locally led and only succeed with a variety and breadth of *public engagement and inclusion*. The planning process builds *resources and partnerships* by involving a wide array of stakeholders. The plans can only succeed when they develop implementation projects that can predictably *deliver results with measurable impacts*.

Similarly, this Program holistically supports the Goals of the Council's Comprehensive Plan to restore and conserve habitat, restore water quality, replenish and protect living resources, enhance community resilience, and restore and revitalize the Gulf economy.

Watershed planning is *foundational* and *sustainable* and represents a prudent way to fully evaluate and assess each watershed, determine a suite of projects and programs targeted to improve ecosystem services within those watersheds, and - most importantly - target limited implementation funds to areas where they will result in the greatest benefit.

IV. Location Information

Figure 1. Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Study area, depicting priority intertidal HUC-12 Watersheds that have been prioritized for management plan development. LEGEND: Blue indicates completed watershed management plans where implementation is underway; Dark Green indicates watersheds that are underway through NFWF funds; Light Green indicates watersheds for which RESTORE funds are requested.



V. High-Level Budget Narrative

Funding for the Coastal Alabama Watershed Restoration Planning Program will be distributed to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, which serves as fiscal agent for the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, who will be responsible for program administration and oversight. Funds will be used for project delivery, indirect administrative costs, and subcontracts for watershed plan development. The Dauphin Island Sea Lab has an approved federal indirect rate of 43.2%. For pass-through contracts, the DISL indirect is capped to the first \$25,000 of contract value. The DISL rate is applied in full to the direct costs incurred by MBNEP for project delivery and oversight. Budget is described as follows:

Watershed Plan Development	\$3,750,000.00
5 % Direct Administrative Funds for Project Delivery <i>(MBNEP Direct Oversight)</i>	\$187,500.00
DISL Indirect fees associated with Contract Administration <i>(Based on issuance of 30 contracts exceeding \$25,000 each)</i>	\$324,000.00
DISL Indirect Rate <i>(Applied to Direct Costs for MBNEP Project Delivery)</i>	\$81,000.00
TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST	\$4,342,500.00

VI. Environmental Compliance Checklist

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Environmental Compliance Checklist

Please check all federal and state environmental compliance and permit requirements as appropriate to the proposed project/program

Environmental Compliance Type	Yes	No	Applied For	N/A
Federal				√
National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA)				√
Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)				√
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act				√
Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)				√
NEPA – Categorical Exclusion				√
NEPA – Environmental Assessment				√
NEPA – Environmental Impact Statement				√
Clean Water Act – 404 – Individual Permit (USACOE)				√
Clean Water Act – 404 – General Permit(USACOE)				√
Clean Water Act – 404 – Letters of Permission(USACOE)				√
Clean Water Act – 401 – WQ certification				√
Clean Water Act – 402 – NPDES				√
Rivers and Harbors Act – Section 10 (USACOE)				√
Endangered Species Act – Section 7 – Informal and Formal Consultation (NMFS, USFWS)				√
Endangered Species Act – Section 7 - Biological Assessment (BOEM,USACOE)				√
Endangered Species Act – Section 7 – Biological Opinion (NMFS, USFWS)				√
Endangered Species Act – Section 7 – Permit for Take (NMFS, USFWS)				√
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) – Consultation (NMFS)				√
Marine Mammal Protection Act – Incidental Take Permit (106) (NMFS, USFWS)				√
Migratory Bird Treaty Act (USFWS)				√
Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act – Consultation and Planning (USFWS)				√
Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act – Section 103 permit (NMFS)				√
BOEM Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act – Section 8 OCS Lands Sand permit				√
NHPA Section 106 – Consultation and Planning ACHP, SHPO(s), and/or THPO(s)				√
NHPA Section 106 – Memorandum of Agreement/Programmatic Agreement				√
Tribal Consultation (Government to Government)				√
Coastal Barriers Resource Act – CBRS (Consultation)				√
State				√
As Applicable per State				√

VII. Data / Information sharing plan

The Watershed Management Planning effort is largely an inventory and synthesis of existing data for a specific geographic region. In some cases, new baseline data collection will be necessary in order to fully assess the watershed or determine appropriate restoration or management options. Any additional data needs will comply with a Quality Assurance Project Plan to be prepared. All metadata related to project activities will be submitted to the NOAA Coastal Data Development Center. Published watershed management plans will be available for free download from the MBNEP website. Every effort will be made to serve data to the public using existing partner agency portals.

VIII. Reference list of literature cited in the proposal

Coffee, Glendon L. and Emery E. Baya. 2010. Watershed Management Plan for D'Olive Creek, Tiawasee Creek, and Joe's Branch Watersheds: Daphne, Spanish Fort and Baldwin County, AL. 474p. <http://www.mobilebaynep.com/images/uploads/library/DOLive-Final-Report-Full.pdf>.

Cook, Marlon R., Neil E. Moss, Alana Rogers, and Mack McKinney. 2014. Phase II Post-Restoration Analysis of Discharge, Sediment Transport Rates, and Water Quality in Tributaries of Joes Branch in Spanish Fort, Baldwin County, Alabama. Geological Survey of Alabama Open File Report 1408. 33p. http://www.mobilebaynep.com/assets/landing/Joes_Branch_GSA_Post-Restoration_Assessment.pdf.

Environmental Protection Agency. 2008. Handbook for developing watershed plans to restore and protect our waters. 400 p. http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/upload/2008_04_18_NPS_watershed_handbook_handbook-2.pdf

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program. 2013. Respect the Connect. Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Alabama's Estuaries and Coast. 144p. http://www.mobilebaynep.com/images/uploads/library/CCMP_Handout_9-25.pdf

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program. 2014. Three Mile Creek Watershed Management Plan. 310p. http://www.mobilebaynep.com/images/uploads/library/TMCWMP_Final_20140905_Web.pdf.

NatureServe 2002. States of the Union: Ranking America's Biodiversity. NatureServe, Arlington, VA. 27p. www.natureserve.org/library/stateofunions.pdf.

IX. Other documents, if applicable

No other documents are submitted with this proposal. Reviewer is encouraged to visit the library tab at www.mobilebaynep.com to download the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, which contains maps and general descriptions of each watershed as well as the methodology used to prioritize watersheds for planning purposes.



ELIGIBILITY REVIEW

Bucket 2 – Council Selected Restoration Component

PROPOSAL TITLE

Coastal Alabama Comprehensive Watershed Restoration Planning Project

PROPOSAL NUMBER

AL-3

LOCATION

Coastal and Intertidal 12-digit HUC Watersheds in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama

SPONSOR(S)

Alabama

TYPE OF FUNDING REQUESTED (Planning, Technical Assistance, Implementation)

Planning/Technical Assistance

REVIEWED BY:

Bethany Carl Kraft/ Ben Scaggs

DATE:

11-18-14

1. Does the project aim to restore and/or protect natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitat, beaches, coastal wetlands and economy of the Gulf Coast Region?

YES NO

Notes:

Proposal seeks funding to complete watershed planning components of 19 priority watersheds in Coastal Alabama.

2. Is the proposal a project?

YES NO

If yes, is the proposed activity a discrete project or group of projects where the full scope of the restoration or protection activity has been defined?

YES NO

Notes:

3. Is the proposal a program?

YES NO

If yes, does the proposed activity establish a program where the program manager will solicit, evaluate, select, and carry out discrete projects that best meet the program's restoration objectives and evaluation criteria?

YES NO

Notes:

4. Is the project within the Gulf Coast Region of the respective Gulf States?

YES NO

If no, do project benefits accrue in the Gulf Coast Region?

YES NO

Notes:



Eligibility Determination

ELIGIBLE

Additional Information

[Empty box for additional information]

Proposal Submission Requirements

1. Is the project submission overall layout complete? *Check if included and formatted correctly.*

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A. Summary sheet | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | F. Environmental compliance checklist | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| B. Executive summary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | G. Data/Information sharing plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| C. Proposal narrative | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | H. Reference list | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| D. Location information | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | I. Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| E. High level budget narrative | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |

If any items are NOT included - please list and provide details

[Empty box for details of missing items]

2. Are all proposal components presented within the specified page limits (if applicable)?

YES NO

Notes: