• Signed into law July 6, 2012

• Dedicates 80% of Clean Water Act civil & admin penalties resulting from Deepwater Horizon oil spill to the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund

• Created the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council with responsibility over 60% of the Trust Fund
Allocation of Funds

Allocation of Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund

- Clean Water Act Penalties
- 20% Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund

80% Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund

- 35% Equally distributed to 5 Gulf States (AL, FL, LA, MS, TX)
- 30%* Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council for ecosystem restoration
- 30% Impact based distribution to 5 Gulf States (AL, FL, LA, MS, TX)
- 2.5%* Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring, and Technology Program
- 2.5%* Centers of Excellence

*Supplemented by interest generated by the Trust Fund (50% to Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, 25% to Science Program, 25% to Centers of Excellence)
The 11-member RESTORE Council is comprised of:

- Governors from the five (5) affected Gulf States
- Secretary of the Department of Commerce (Chair)
- Secretary of the Department of Agriculture
- Secretary of the Department of the Army
- Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
- Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security
- Secretary of the Department of the Interior
Funding

• Settlement with Transocean for $1 billion Clean Water Act civil penalties
  • 80% or $800 million plus interest is available in the Trust Fund

• On July 2, BP announced Agreements in Principle with the US & Gulf States
  • Provides for $5.5 billion Clean Water Act penalty
  • Payable over 15 years
  • Terms are subject to a Confidentiality Order
  • Will not become final until a Consent Decree is negotiated, made available for public review & approved by the court
Allocation of Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund

- **Clean Water Act Penalties**
- **20% Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund**

- **80% Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund**
  - 35% Equally distributed to 5 Gulf States (AL, FL, LA, MS, TX)
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  - 2.5%+ Centers of Excellence

*Supplemented by interest generated by the Trust Fund (50% to Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, 25% to Science Program, 25% to Centers of Excellence)
• Council to restore the Gulf “without regard to geographic location”

• **4 Priority Criteria from the Act:**
  • Provide the greatest contribution to restoring & protecting the natural resources of the Gulf
  • Large-scale
  • Build upon existing coastal restoration plans or programs
  • Provide for long-term ecosystem resilience to areas most impacted by the DWH oil spill
August 2014: Council invited Members to submit up to 5 proposals each

50 proposals with 380 “Components” submitted

All proposals & “Context Reports” posted on web

Context Reports Evaluated Projects By:

- Eligibility
- Budget
- Consistency with the Act & Initial Comprehensive Plan
- Best Available Science
- Environmental Compliance
Focus Areas

• Habitat
• Water Quality

Emphasis Areas

• Foundational
• Sustainable
• Likely to succeed
• Benefits the human community
• Focus on 10 Key Watersheds

• Highly-Leveraged

• Lay the Groundwork for the Future by Supporting Large-Scale Planning Projects

• Foundational Restoration Investments
• If all Category 1 & 2 activities were fully implemented, this Draft FPL would build upon or leverage approximately $1.27 billion additional restoration investments.

• That means that every $1 the Council spends from Bucket 2 would build upon $7 of prior, concurrent, or future investments.
Category 1
- Proposed for funding in final FPL
- Includes planning & on-the-ground restoration
- Applicable environmental laws addressed (e.g. NEPA)

Category 2
- Priorities for further review & potential future funding
- Additional analysis needed, including environmental compliance
- Have planning components in Category 1
• Conserve 9,400 acres of coastal habitat

• Plug 11 abandoned oil & gas wells

• Backfill 16.5 miles of abandoned oil & gas canals

• Eliminate the use of 16,000 pounds of fertilizer annually

• Reduce pollutant loads by 60,000 pounds annually

• Invest in Gulf-wide science, coordination, planning, & restoration training programs
Our Partners Include

- NFWF
- NRDA Trustees
- CIAP
- CWPPRA
- Knobloch Foundation
- Migratory Bird Conservation Fund
- The Conservation Fund
- TNC
- GOMRI
- Audubon
- Wildlife MS
- Several Local Cities & Counties
- USM
10 Key Watersheds
Why this is a Key Watershed

• Only hyper saline coastal lagoon in North America
• Supports rare & endangered species (e.g. Kemp’s Ridley Turtle & Piping Plover) & fragile habitat

Ecological Stressors

• Habitat fragmentation from regional land uses
• Water quality/quantity & invasive species

Council Restoration Activities

• Land acquisition (co-funded with Knobloch)
• Hydrologic restoration of coastal wetlands
• Plugging abandoned oil & gas wells
Matagorda Bay

Why this is a Key Watershed

- Biodiversity “hot spot” & diverse habitats
- Supports a wide variety of endangered species (e.g. whooping crane)
- Ecotourism industry

Ecological Stressors

- Development risk & potential habitat fragmentation
- Water quality & quantity

Council Restoration Activities

- Unique opportunity to conserve by land acquisition
- Adjoining leveraging with NFWF (Powderhorn Ranch)
Why this is a Key Watershed

- 7th largest estuary in U.S.
- Supports migratory birds & threatened & endangered species
- Supports robust fishing

Ecological Stressors

- Coastal development
- Water quality & quantity

Council Restoration Activities

- Riparian buffers to support habitat & water quality restoration
- Planning for beneficial use of dredged sediment
Mississippi River Delta

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

Mississippi River Delta

Restore, Protect, and Rebuild Projects

- Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline
- Jean Lafitte Canal Backfilling
- West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization
- Golden Triangle Marsh Creation
- Lowermost Mississippi River Management
- Mississippi River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp
- Bayou Dularge Ridge, Marsh & Hydrologic Restoration

Map Date: August 11, 2015

Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community
Why this is a Key Watershed

• Worlds 7th largest delta
• One of the most productive estuaries in the world
• Critical role in the nation’s energy & economic security

Ecological Stressors

• Land loss crisis (combination of factors)
• Hurricanes

Council Restoration Activities

• Build upon investments made by the state in its Coastal Master Plan
• Large-scale planning supports river diversion, marsh restoration, & barrier islands
• Study to support more holistic management of the Lower MS River
Why this is a Key Watershed

- Diverse estuaries, bays, bayous, tidal rivers & creeks
- Ecological diversity that support commercial & recreational fishing & a nationally important oyster industry
- Largest undammed river in Lower 48 (Pascagoula)

Ecological Stressors

- Habitat loss, fragmentation & water quality

Council Restoration Activities

- Connecting fragmented habitat (e.g. Grand Bay, DeSoto National Forest, Gulf Islands National Seashore)
- Beneficial use to create wetlands
- MS Sound Estuary Program
- Education & Outreach pilot
Mobile Bay

Why this is a Key Watershed

• Ranks 5\textsuperscript{th} in the U.S. in biodiversity & 1\textsuperscript{st} east of MS River
• Robust ecotourism-including coastal & deep sea fishing

Ecological Stressors

• Land-use conversion, shoreline hardening, invasive species, & water quality degradation

Council Restoration Activities

• Supporting the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
• Watershed planning
• Living shoreline & SAV restoration & monitoring
• Beneficial use of dredged sediments to restore wetlands
• Marsh restoration
Foundational Gulf-wide Investments
Foundational Gulf-wide Investments

- Gulf-wide grant program to address habitat & water quality/quantity
- Support science-based decision making:
  - Planning tools to support habitat & water quality/quantity restoration
  - Restoration monitoring & coordination
- Gulf Coast Conservation Corps Program:
  - Equip local workforce with knowledge & skills to implement & manage restoration projects
  - Work with Federally-recognized Tribes to provide a tribal youth program
Florida’s November 2014 Submissions to RESTORE Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 Proposals -23 Projects</th>
<th>$78 Million</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pensacola Bay (5 projects)</td>
<td>$15.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apalachicola Bay (6 projects)</td>
<td>$26.1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suwannee River (3 projects)</td>
<td>$12.1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampa Bay (5 projects)</td>
<td>$6.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest Florida Estuaries (4 projects)</td>
<td>$16.8 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Florida’s Projects on Draft FPL

**Florida Sponsored - $18.5 million**
- Category 1 - $12.5 million
- Category 2 - $6 million

**Other Council Member Sponsored - $12 million**
- Category 1 - $4 million
- Category 2 - $8 million

**Gulf-wide Florida Benefits - $7 million**
- Category 1 - $5.7 million
- Category 2 - $1.6 million
Beach Haven Joint Stormwater & Wastewater Improvement Project – Phase II

- 6.4 miles of sewer main & removal of 760 septic tanks
- Category 1: $5,967,000
- Pollutant load reduction of 60,000 lb. per year
- Leveraging $6 million from Local Governments

Bayou Chico Contaminated Sediment Removal – Planning, Design, and Permitting

- Dredging sediments from Bayou Chico
- Category 1: $356,850
- Future benefits include: restore benthic habitat, increase biological diversity & productivity, and improve water quality
- Leveraging over $11 million in NFWF funding & $25 million from Bayou Chico stakeholders
Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline – Phase 1

- Design of 24,800 l.f. of oyster reef and 205 acres of marsh and SAV
- Creation of 2,000 l.f. of oyster reef breakwater and 25 acres of marsh and SAV
- Category 1: $231,314
- Category 2: $1,564,636
- Leveraging $11 million in NRDA funding
Apalachicola Watershed Agriculture Water Quality Improvement

- FDACS Ag BMPs cost-share program to improve water quality on private land
- Category 1: $2,219,856
- Eliminate approx. 8,000 lb of fertilizer per year
- Leveraging approx. $700,000 in cost-share

Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration

- 43,858 cubic yards of cultch
- 219 acres
- Category 1: $702,000
- Category 2: $3,978,000
- Leveraging $4 million NFWF, $2.1 million NRDA Early Restoration Phase III project, and $6 million Federal Disaster Assistance funding
USDA Tate’s Hell Strategy 1

- Tate’s Hell State Forest
- Hydrologic restoration; landscape restoration/planting; tool development; comprehensive planning on public and private lands
- Category 1: $2,950,000
- Category 2: 4,050,000
- Leveraging $1.6 million in FFS and NWFWMD funding

DOC-NOAA Money Bayou Wetlands Restoration

- St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve
- Approx. 1,000 acres of wetlands
- Category 1: $387,726
- Category 2: $852,653
- Leverage in-kind partnership
Suwannee Watershed
Gulf of Mexico
Suwannee River Partnership Irrigation Water Enhancement Program

- FDACS Ag BMPs cost-share program to improve water quality on private land
- Category 1: $2,884,000
- Eliminate approx. 8,000 lb of fertilizer annually
- Leveraging approx. $900,000 in cost-share
Palm River Restoration Project Phase II, East McKay Bay

- Restore 8 acres of salt marsh and 32 acres of coastal uplands
- Construct 3 stormwater ponds
- Category 1: $87,750
- Category 2: $497,250
- Remove 517 lb of nitrogen per year
- Leveraging $900,000 in SWFWMD and FDOT funding
DOC-NOAA Robinson Preserve Wetlands Restoration

- Restore 85 acres of uplands & create 55 acres of wetland at Robinson Preserve
- Category 1: $470,910
- Category 2: $1,319,636
- Leveraging $40 million in Manatee County & partner funding

Tampa Bay National Estuary Program

- EPA project to implement elements of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program
- Category 1: $100,000
- Category 2: $2,000,000
- Reduce 16.5 tons of nitrogen per year, restore 250 acres of coastal habitat, & create 200 acres of seagrass
- Leveraging $3.4 million in local government & partner funding
Next Steps

- Hold Public Meetings in all Five Gulf States
- Take Public Comment on the Draft FPL
- Carefully Review Public Comment
- Make Changes to the FPL as appropriate
- Hold a Public Meeting to Vote on Approval of Final FPL
Comments Due By: Sept. 28, 2015

Submit online: www.RestoreTheGulf.gov

Mail: Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council
Draft FPL Comments
Hale Boggs Federal Building, Suite 1117
New Orleans, LA 70130

Email: draftfplcomments@restorethegulf.gov
Thank You